Winnipeg metro

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, MARCH 31-APRIL 2, 2017 | High 7°C/Low -1°C Scattered showers

FOCUS ON FAMINE

'These aren't unsolvable problems.'

Canadian Katherine Clark on the situation in Nigeria, metroNEWS

ALL SPORT NO EGO

Downhill skier Michael Milani with his silver and bronze medals. LYLE STAFFORD/ FOR METRO

Manitoba shines at World Winter Games with 12 medals metroNEWS

Provincial nominee waitlist nearly clear

IMMIGRATION

Liberal critic gives 'mad props' to Tories, but awaits hard proof

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

The education minister has just one day left to accomplish his goal of scrapping the lengthy waitlist for Manitoba's Provincial Nominee Program.

And he has almost completely fulfilled his promise.

In an email Thursday — a day before Ian Wishart's March 31 deadline — a spokesperson for the minister said about 80 files from 2014-15 remain in the queue. The outstanding files need extra documents from applicants "in accordance with the program's fairness and integrity provisions."

In April 2016, there were over 5,100 applications pending, the spokesperson said, with some dating as far back as 2013. The government pledged that new candidates who submit complete applications to the program will be processed in six months or less.

Cindy Lamoureux, MLA for Burrows and Liberal immigration critic, staged a 33-hour sit-in outside Wishart's office in February, demanding answers about the MPNP program.

She was surprised to hear how drastically the PC government cut the waitlist in about a year. "If that is accurate, mad props to them. I'll believe it when I see it," Lamoureux said, attributing her doubts to anecdotal stories she's heard from community members.

"Every Monday night I go to my McDonald's (for a community town hall) and at least five or six people came to me last Monday about still waiting (on the MPNP list)," she said.

Starting Saturday, the government is enacting a $500 application fee for those applying to the skilled worker stream of the nominee program, which Lamoureux said she doesn't agree with.

The revenue will be reinvested into services for immigrants and refugees, including jobs programs, according to Wishart's spokesperson.

A group of activists called Save MPNP has criticized the new fee as an extra barrier for already cash-strapped immigrants trying to come to Canada.

"You're reducing the backlog, but you're making immigration harder for people," said member Anthony Huynh Thursday.

Hoping to negotiate with Wishart before the change took effect, Save MPNP set up a meeting with him about a month ago.

Huynh said the facetime was scheduled for Friday, but on Thursday, a government aide told them the meeting would be postponed until April 6 due to scheduling conflicts.

"Even the fact that they wanted to meet the day before is kind of a slap in the face," Huynh said. "Because you can't really consult with someone the day before they're implementing the changes."

Save MPNP plans to hold an information picket outside the Manitoba Legislature Friday morning, starting at 9 a.m.

Colour commentary Artists weigh in after Crayola weeds out dandelion yellow, metroNEWS

DOC WALKER
Dauphin's
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Artists and times are subject to change without notice.

metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

'Praying' polar bear captures attention of Newfoundland photographer. **Canada**

METRO ASKS

Dandelion yellow has been plucked from Crayola's 24-crayon box set and tossed like a bad weed. The company announced the crayon's retirement Thursday, ahead of National Crayon Day. Colour us intrigued, but we thought to ask Winnipeg artists:

Which Crayola colour should go?

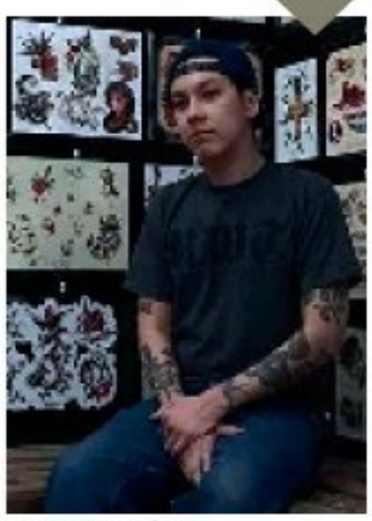
MICHELLE BAILEY FOR METRO

ALL PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

I would say the white one. You can create white out of a negative space by just not colouring anything in that space.

Josiah David Koppanyi — Contemporary Artist

Definitely white. I don't need it in my medium. If I do ever use it, which is hardly ever, it would be a very small amount. I also don't think I've used any kind of crayon since I was six!



Vince Patrick — Tattooer at Rebel Waltz

Green-yellow. To me, it's like a second white. It doesn't really show up when you use it. I would probably just throw it out altogether.

Arianna Picard — Fashion Design student

It's time for Crayola to consider dumping that '80s banker green they call Forest Green. Forests are lush with endless shades of green. Why does this particular one deserve naming rights to the whole forest? That shade lacks integrity. I don't trust it.

Toby McCrae — Visual Artist at Toby McCrae Art

They should retire violet red because red can stand on its own feet.

Zephyra Vun — Founder and Owner at anARCHI design

RIVERS

Winnipeg preps for flooding

Flood officials say ice jams and spring runoff are causing water to rise across much of southern Manitoba.

The Red River is expected to crest in Winnipeg this weekend and officials say ice may prevent them from operating the floodway that diverts water around the capital.

Winnipeg city officials say they are preparing to sandbag up to 50 properties.

An ice jam along the Red River just north of Winnipeg forced the closure of a bridge when water covered Highway 204.

The province says despite spring runoff, ice is still in place on many rivers, which is causing overland flooding in some areas.

Forecasters say soil moisture is very high following a wet fall, and river and lake levels are above normal in some areas.

Officials say they've put flood-fighting gear — including steamers and pumps — in the southwest and are in touch with municipal emergency coordinators.

"A combination of rapid melt, ice jamming and blocked culverts may lead to a rapid rise in water levels on tributaries and may cause localized overland flooding," the province said in its flood bulletin issued Thursday.

"Municipal and provincial crews are thawing culverts on a priority basis."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5 THINGS TO DO THIS WEEKEND

Michelle Bailey
For Metro | Winnipeg

1 Weezer stops in Winnipeg

Pretty sure there were a number of "Oh yeah"s belted out by local fans when it was announced that the American rock band Weezer would make a stop in Winnipeg on April 2.

The group, known for hits such as Beverly Hills, will perform in the 'Peg for the first time in its 20-year career. Opening for them will be The Trews and The Flatliners.

The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are still available via ticketmaster.ca

2 Have a fun geekend

If you're a fan of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, grab your autograph book and head down to the RBC Convention Centre where you can meet Emma Caulfield, who plays Anya Jenkins on the show.

Caulfield and other guests will be featured at the Manitoba Comic Con & Sci Fi Expo on April 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and April 2 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit c4winnipeg.com for show and ticket info.

3 Tweet tweet, buzz buzz

If you want to learn about sex, love and relationships, you might want to see the on-stage comedy The Birds and the Bees at the PTE (located at Portage Place). Canadian playwright Mark Crawford has penned a story about family and human nature but with a sense of humour. Shows run March 31, April 1 and April 2 at 8 p.m. Matinees are Saturday 3 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. Ticket info is available at pte.mb.ca

4 For the love of art

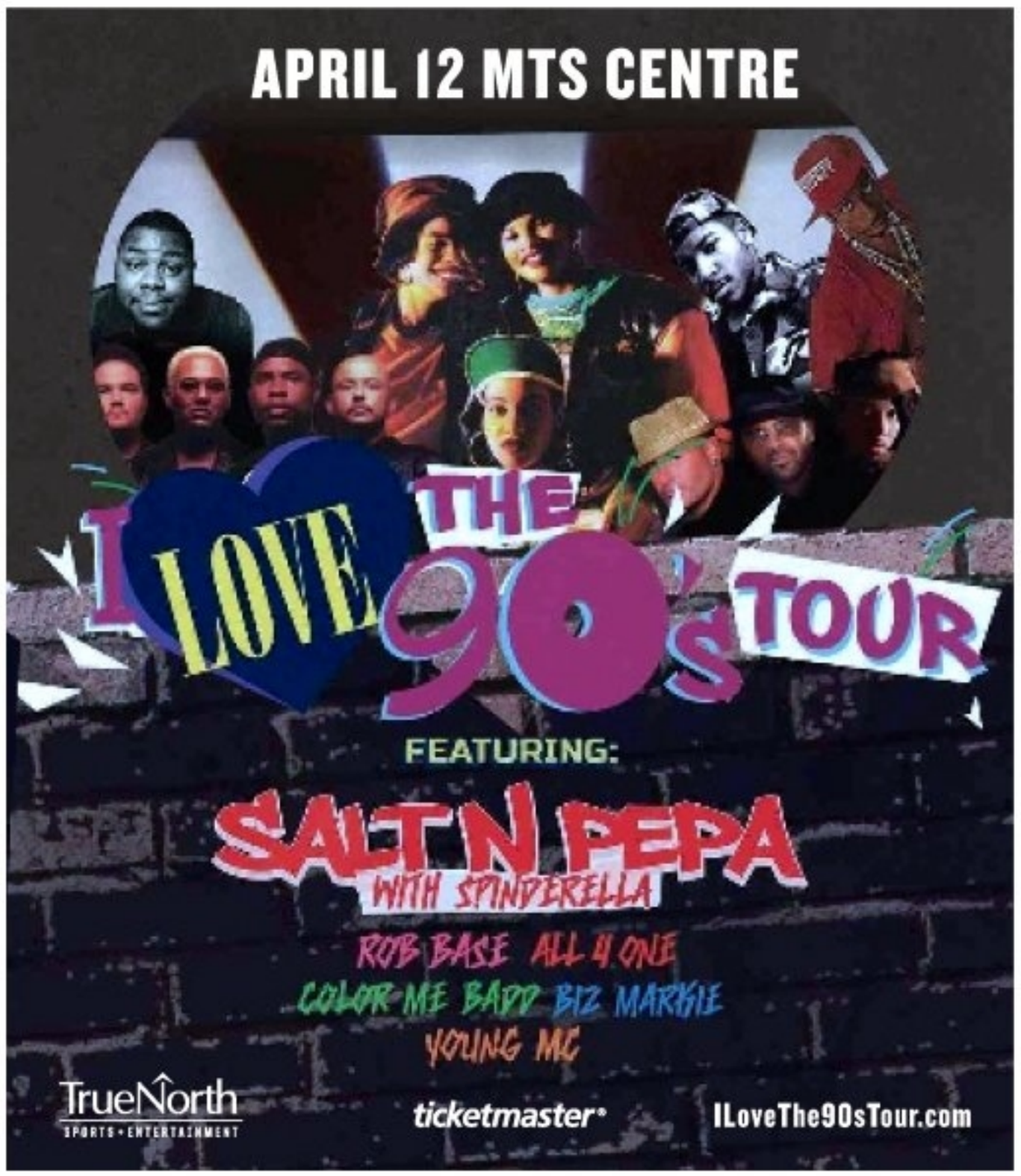
Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where some artwork is. An annual spring tradition continues at Mary Mother of the Church, 85 Kirkbridge Dr., with an art exhibit and sale featuring 45 Manitoba artists and some 2,000 pieces of art. Proceeds go to a variety of charities. Free admission.

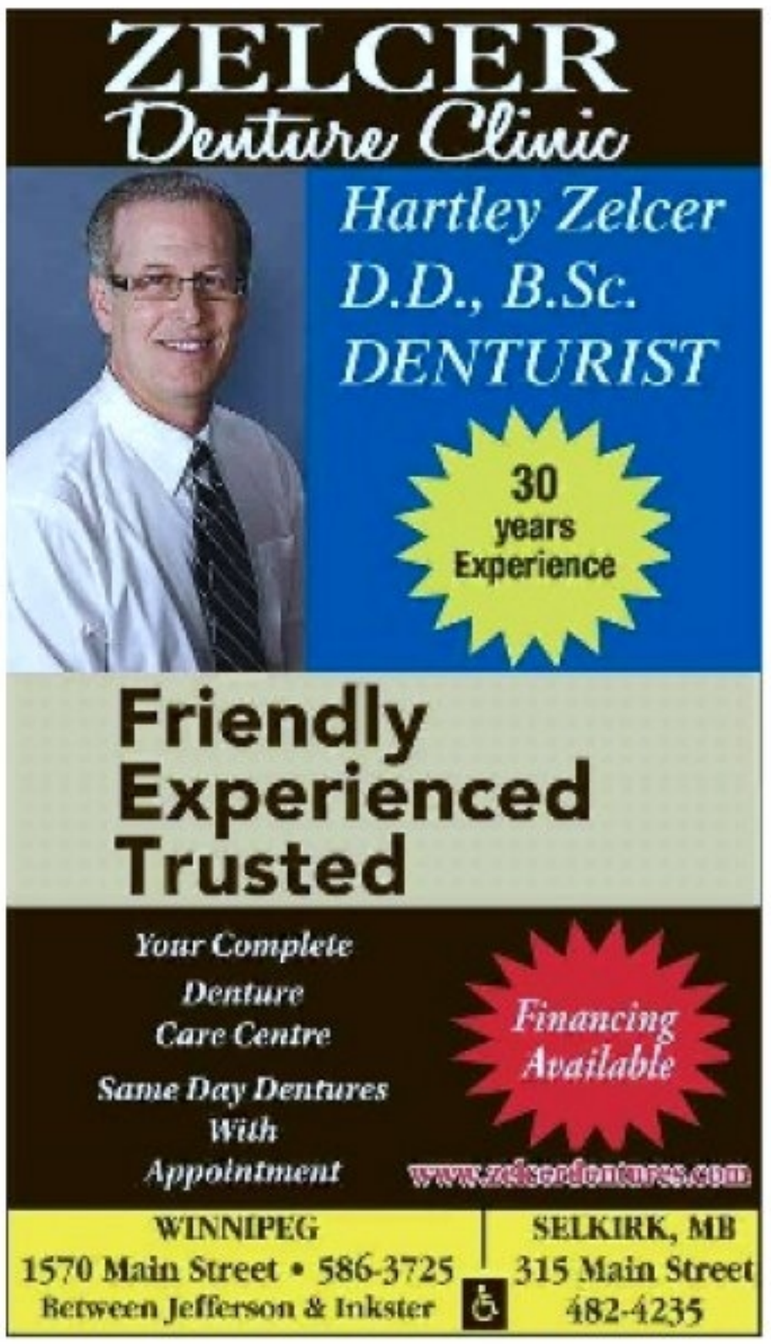
The event happens March 31 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., April 1 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

5 Nobody puts Baby in a corner

It's hard to believe it's been 30 years since Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey foxtrotted their way into the hearts of movie goers with Dirty Dancing.

If you want to relive the hit movie through a live experience, check out Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story on Stage at the Centennial Concert Hall on March 31, April 1 and April 2 — all 8 p.m. shows. Hit songs from the famous flick will be played by an eight-piece band. For info, go to centennialconcerthall.com





WPG COMEDY FESTIVAL

APRIL 3–9, 2017

PRESENTED BY club Regent CASINO · EVENT CENTRE

HOMEMADE HUMOR

MONDAY, APRIL 3

Outreach – 819.7 Free Comedy
Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

WCF The Upper Deck
Jekyll & Hyde's Freehouse | 9:30 pm | Tickets: Free

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Outreach – 819.7 Free Comedy
Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

High School Improv
Vincent Massey Collegiate | 7:00 pm | Tickets: $5

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series
Rumor's Comedy Club | 8:00 pm | Tickets: $15 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Andy Noble | **HEADLINER:** Rob Pue

WCF The Upper Deck
Jekyll & Hyde's Freehouse | 9:30 pm | Tickets: Free

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Outreach – 819.7 Free Comedy
Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

GASTROCOMIQUE
Fusion Grill | 6:00 pm
Tickets: $150 (includes meal and wine pairing)
HOST: Ashley Burdett
CAST: Rob Pue, Dave Hemstad

CBC Radio's Now or Never
NOW or Never
West End Cultural Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: $20
HOSTS: Ify Chiwetelu and Trevor Dineen

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series
Rumor's Comedy Club | 8:00 pm | Tickets: $15 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Dan Verville | **HEADLINER:** Nile Séguin

Ali Hassan: Muslim Interrupted
West End Cultural Centre | 9:00 pm | Tickets: $20

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Outreach – 819.7 Free Comedy
Millennium Library | 12:15 pm | Tickets: Free

Lady Like
Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre
THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 7:15pm | Tickets: $35
HOST: Nikki Payne | **LOCAL OPENER:** Ashley Burdett
CAST: Cara Connors, Fatima Dhowre, Robby Hoffman, Nathan Macintosh, Nile Séguin, Erica Sigurdson

CBC Radio's Because News
West End Cultural Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: $20
HOST: Gavin Crawford

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series
Rumor's Comedy Club | 8:00 pm | Tickets: $15 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Ryan Ash | **HEADLINER:** Sean Emeny

The Winnipeg Show
West End Cultural Centre | 10:00 pm | Tickets: $15
HOST: Bruce Clark

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Virgin Territory
Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre
THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 7:15 pm | Tickets: $35
HOST: Gavin Crawford
CAST: Martha Chaves, Ivan Decker, Adrienne Fish, Dave Hemstad, Ashley Moffatt, Derek Seguin

Alicia Tobin's Come Draw with Me
West End Cultural Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: $20

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series
Rumor's Comedy Club | 7:45 pm | Tickets: $20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Ben Walker | **HEADLINER:** Jackie Kashian

The Best of WCF on Tour
Morris, MB
Morris Multiplex | 8:00 pm | Tickets: $20

Coast to Coast: 150 Years of Funny!
Club Regent Event Centre | 8:00 pm | Tickets: $20

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Lost in Translation, Perdu en quoi?
CCFM | 20h | Billets: $10

Good Neighbours
Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre
THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 9:15 pm | Tickets: $35
HOST: Tommy Chong | **LOCAL OPENER:** Matt Nightingale
CAST: Rob Bebenek, Sean Emeny, Mark James Heath, Deb Kimmett, Shazia Mirza, Tim Nutt, Matt Falk

Tales From Late Night
West End Cultural Centre | 10:00 pm | Tickets: $20
HOST: Bruce Clark

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series
Rumor's Comedy Club | 10:30 pm | Tickets: $20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Tyler Penner | **HEADLINER:** Nathan Macintosh

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

CBC Radio's The Debaters
Club Regent Event Centre | 2:00 pm | Tickets: $30
HOST: Steve Patterson

Dinner & A Movie
presenting **Caddyshack**
The MET | 6:00 pm | Tickets: $30
HOST: Howie Miller

I Heart Love
Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre
PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE THEATRE | 6:45 pm | Tickets: $35
HOST: Will Sasso | **LOCAL OPENER:** Kate Schellenberg
CAST: Amanda Brooke Perrin, Jen Grant, Patrick Haye, Jackie Kashian, Jacob Samuel, Joe Vu

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series
Rumor's Comedy Club | 7:15 pm | Tickets: $20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Matt Nightingale | **HEADLINER:** Mark James Heath

No Bro Show
West End Cultural Centre | 7:30 pm | Tickets: $20
HOST: Lara Rae

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Hot Mess
Presented by Club Regent Casino and Event Centre
THE PANTAGES PLAYHOUSE | 9:15 pm | Tickets: $35
HOST: Howie Miller | **LOCAL OPENER:** Tim Gray
CAST: Jeff McEnery, Kathleen McGee, Matt Wright, Rebecca Reeds, Julie Kim, Glen Foster

Feminist Gong Show
West End Cultural Centre | 9:30 pm | Tickets: $20
HOST: Erica Sigurdson

The Dirty Show
The MET | 10:00 pm | Tickets: $20 (18+ no minors)
CAST: Tim Nutt, Kathleen McGee

WCF Rumor's Comedy Club Series
Rumor's Comedy Club | 10:00 pm | Tickets: $20 (18+ no minors)
HOST: Andy Noble | **HEADLINER:** Patrick Haye

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

You're Welcome
West End Cultural Centre | 12 noon | Tickets: Free
CAST: Martha Chaves, Jeff McEnery

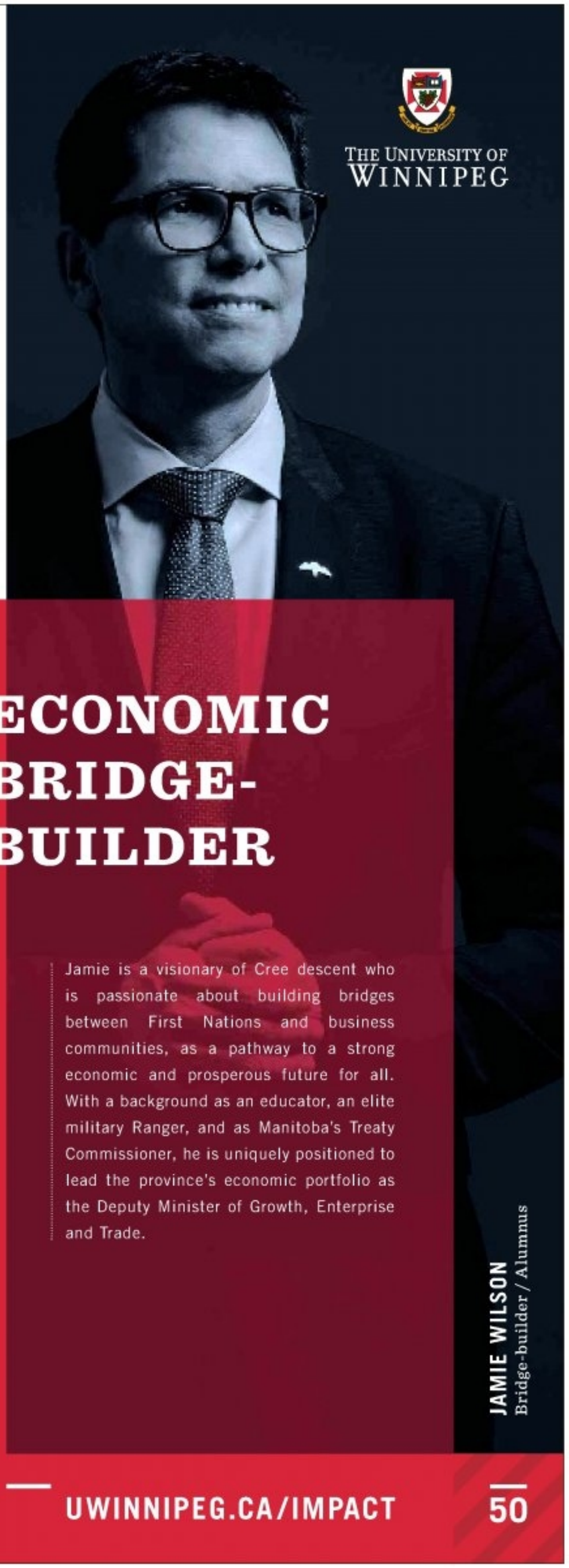
CBC's The Debaters
Club Regent Event Centre | 2:00 pm | Tickets: $30
HOST: Steve Patterson

Shazia Mirza: The Kardashians Made Me Do It
West End Cultural Centre | 3:00 pm | Tickets: $20

WCF presents Best of the Fest & The Mic Awards
Club Regent Event Centre | 7:00 pm | Tickets: $25
HOST: Jackie Kashian
CAST: Glen Foster, Jeff McEnery, Matt Wright, Rob Pue, Nikki Payne, Shazia Mirza

Tickets available at www.winnipegcomedyfestival.com
or in person at **Gas Station Arts Centre open Thursday to Saturday, 11am–6pm**

VISUAL LIZARD · Canada · Manitoba



The Architecture and Design Film Festival takes submissions in two categories for young people under the age of 18 and for adults, highlighting chic and shabby stories across Winnipeg. TOURISM WINNIPEG

Film fest a first foray into movie-making

URBAN DESIGN

Festival shows off the city's landscape in 2-minute videos

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

While Winnipeg is known for some of its pristine historic buildings, an April contest by the Architecture and Design Film Festival aims to celebrate the shabby and chic stories behind our city's landscape.

Archishorts asks entrants to submit two-minute videos about architecture or design for the chance to be featured in Canada's only film festival dedicated to the topic.

The Architecture and Design Film Festival runs from May 3 to 7 around Downtown Winnipeg and the Exchange District.

"Anyone can make a short film using any device they want. It doesn't need to be a sophisticated, hi-tech operation," said co-curator Ted Landrum.

"You can't necessarily tell a long complicated story, but you can inspire, you can provoke, there can be slight humour (and) something at the end that has some sort of resolution or an opening onto some new way of thinking."

Past winners included a silent film-inspired comedy centred around town and a Lego-animated short created by the kids at Art City.

Kent Mundle, an architecture studies graduate from the University of Manitoba who's now an associate with STUFF studio, won last year for his short, Shared City.

The film was inspired by an Ernest Hemingway story, A Clean, Well-Lighted Place, and the isolation of digital culture, Mundle said.

"I'm not sure why it won to be honest," he said. "There were other beautiful movies, some even professionally done. Mine was more of a collage."

Landrum encouraged people of all ages to apply and flex their creativity. There are two submissions categories, one for adults and one for those 18 and under.

"The range of work from local students to international professionals is especially great," Mundle said. "Students need to realize early on that their inexperience and naiveté can be an asset they can use to think or talk about things that no one else can."

Short films should be submitted by April 10 to archishorts@gmail.com. The winning entries will be screened at Cinematheque on May 6 at noon.

SPORTS

MTS Centre tiling made locally

Braeden Jones
Metro | Winnipeg

Any fan catching a Winnipeg Jets home game next season will pass through a newly renovated concourse, and over a sustainable, Manitoba-made "reazzo" flooring material.

True North Sports and Entertainment is livening up the downtown barn with a $12 million facelift that includes a fully new aesthetic with the Jets colour palette and an aviation theme throughout.

It's a big project, one of the biggest in the City of Winnipeg, from a square footage perspective, and all of the square footage underfoot will be sourced from a local company that says its unique product is "the biggest revolutionary change to Terrazzo flooring in 100 years."

Mike Kolas, President and CEO of Antex Western in Winnipeg, said the flooring compound he's supplying for the job isn't just more sustainable, more affordable, and much faster to install, "it's also a good success story for Manitoba."

"It was all developed here, the whole concept, formulations, everything was developed right here in Winnipeg and it's going into a Winnipeg iconic building," he said.

Kolas explained that his take on Terrazzo — a highly durable flooring material made of chipped marble and other minerals set in concrete and polished — is actually made using "construction debris."

Crushed rock, window glass, mirrors — it's all waste, he said.

He's been fiddling with the mix since 2011, changing the amounts and sources of recycled aggregates, and has the formula to a point where it's 100 per cent epoxy and petrochemical free, plus it's made with 50 per cent less cement.

"Some architects asked us what it was, and we made up the name… it's recycled material terrazzo… so we called it reazzo," Kolas said.

Outbreak of E. coli linked to flour

PUBLIC HEALTH

There have been 25 cases of E. coli now reported

The Public Health Agency of Canada says it's investigating an outbreak of E. coli related to a batch of Robin Hood all-purpose flour that's now the subject of a recall.

In a statement, the agency says there have been 25 cases of E. coli reported in four provinces, with six people going to hospital.

No deaths have been reported, and everyone who got sick has either recovered or is recovering.

Most of those who became ill are men, with an average age of 24.

The affected flour comes in 10-kilogram bags with a best-before date of April 17, 2018, and was sold in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

Illnesses were reported in B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

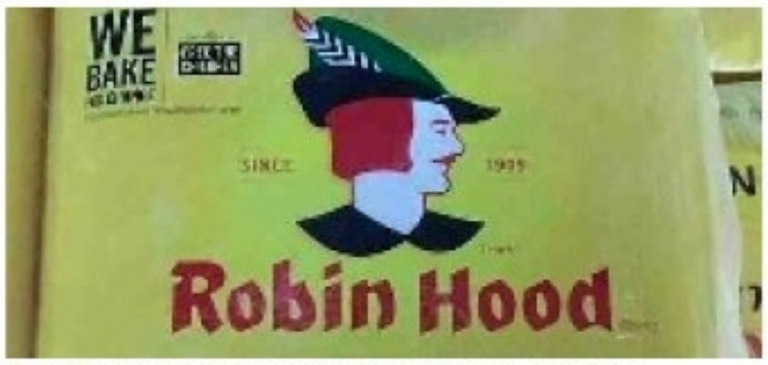
The Canadian Food Inspection Agency issued the recall on Tuesday, saying customers shouldn't consume the affected product.

The CFIA said food contaminated with E. coli may not look or smell spoiled, but can still make you sick.

Symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, mild to severe abdominal cramps and watery to bloody diarrhea.

The Public Health Agency of Canada says its investigation is ongoing, and more products linked to the outbreak could be identified.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The affected flour comes in 10-kilogram bags with a best-before date of April 17, 2018 .

CRIME

Man arrested in child porn incident

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Winnipeg

Story contains disturbing details.

A Winnipeg man is facing multiple child sexual abuse charges after an assault against a six-year-old was live-streamed on social media from the U.S.

Calling it a "difficult" press release to write, Winnipeg police Const. Rob Carver explained how Greg Alan Jamieson, 45, was arrested March 27 following a lengthy investigation.

The police service's Internet Child Exploitation unit (ICE) was first alerted to child sexual abuse images from a Winnipeg-based IP address in mid-2016. It was the National Centre for Missing Exploited Children — a non-government organization in the States similar to the Winnipeg-based cybertip.ca — that notified police.

Following an investigation, police traced the disturbing images involving children as young as eight months old to a Winnipeg home. Jamieson was arrested and charged with making and possessing child pornography, then released on bail.

Upon further investigation, ICE found "communication" between a male suspect in the U.S. and someone in Winnipeg on an unnamed popular instant messaging app. The American suspect was live-streaming the sexual assault of a six-year-old child in his care. Police say the Winnipeg individual was directing the suspect to commit sexual acts on the child.

The American suspect and the child are still unidentified. But Winnipeg police are working with the National Child Exploitation Coordination Centre and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to locate and identify them.

Police believe Jamieson may be linked to that live-streaming case. As a result, they charged Jamieson with several counts of child abuse, including making child pornography and sexual interference.

Carver said Winnipeg police hear child sexual assault reports on a daily basis.

"It is not uncommon. It is everywhere. It's in every community," he said.

Signy Arnason, director of cybertip.ca, said 70 per cent of child sexual abuse occurs in a home setting. She said we need a "wake-up call" that there are people out there with sexually deviant behaviour towards children.

"It could be someone you know."

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection owns and operates cybertip.ca.

> **It could be someone you know.**
>
> Signy Arnason, cybertip.ca

Athletes making Manitoba proud

SPORTS

Every member of Special Olympic team won hardware

Jessica Botelho-Urbanski
Metro | Winnipeg

Every Manitoban Special Olympian who attended the World Winter Games in Austria this month came home with a medal, a rare feat the athletes and coaches are celebrating.

Elijah Ilag, Christine Peters, Adam Lloyd, Valerie Delorme, Michael Milani, Elijah Wood and Darren Boryskavich represented the province in three sports — floor hockey, snowshoeing and alpine skiing — with help from coaches Sabrina Klassen, Joanne Zahaiko and Ron Struch.

Manitobans scored 12 medals, while Team Canada brought home 118 medals altogether.

Winnipeg-based alpine skier Milani earned silver and bronze in slalom ski races.

"I did good in the competition," he said proudly in an interview Thursday. "I had a fun trip in Austria ... it was beautiful."

Delorme, who hails from Altona, had an accident in Austria, losing a snowshoe in her 100-metre race.

The setback could have been crushing, but she recovered in stride, said her coach Joanne Zahaiko.

"As a coach watching that, you're devastated. But as an individual, what she had to go through mentally to bring herself back to run that next race the next day, and not focus on the negative ... She pulled it off and I'm quite proud of her," Zahaiko said.

Delorme casually brushed the error aside, choosing to focus on the good.

"Apparently you're supposed to cross the finish line with two snowshoes, not one," she said with a laugh before detailing her wins — a silver in the 4 x 100-metre snowshoe relay and a bronze in the 200-metre dash.

She called the World Winter Games experience "phenomenal" and said she's been flooded with congratulations since arriving home.

Delorme said she's scheduled to dine with Altona's mayor, tour the Manitoba legislature and be interviewed on TV.

Zahaiko said the athletes' attitudes are part of what's kept her coming back to coach Special Olympians in basketball and snowshoeing for 24 years.

"It's very rewarding and I think when I started volunteering, I started by being able to support the athletes," she said. "And maybe it might sound a little selfish, but now I get a lot out of it."

Following a basketball tournament she coached this year, Zahaiko said someone wrote her an anonymous letter to compliment the athletes' sportsmanship.

"'It wasn't about ego, it was about playing the sport,'" she recalled the letter writer saying. "It's not about being a superstar, it's about every ability level being able to do the best that they can."

Zahaiko encouraged Manitobans to come watch the Special Olympians compete in the Summer Games in Brandon June 16-18.

"You're going to see passion. You're going to see people who are there for the right reasons," she said.

Downhill skier Michael Milani with his silver and bronze medals from the World Winter Games in Austria. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

Spring road conditions affect vehicle maneuverability and safety.

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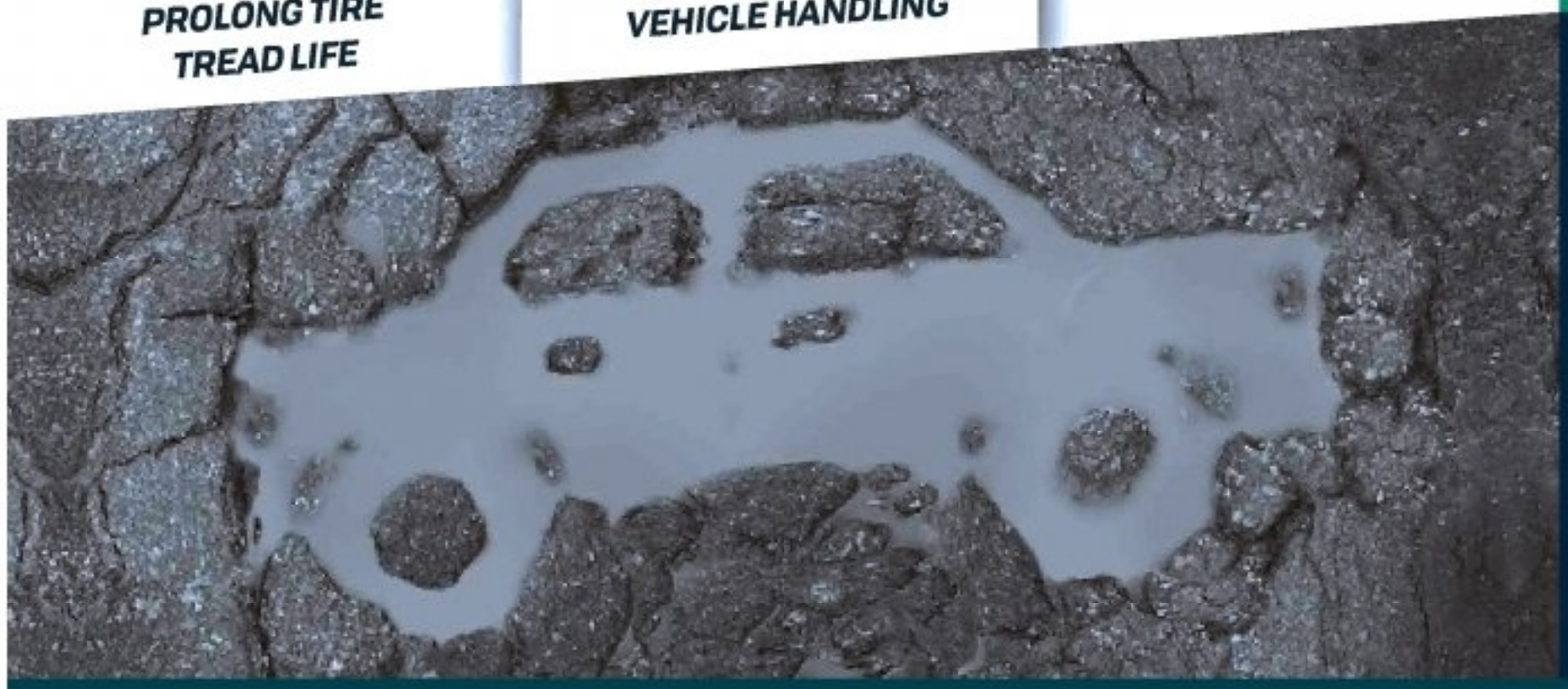

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ENIGMA ESCAPES

{FRIDAY}

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We can help your group with fundraising.

Talk to us to arrange an event at Enigma Escapes.

What is an Escape Game?

An escape game is an interactive, puzzle-solving adventure. Your group of family, friends or coworkers will work together to uncover the secrets of the room and make your way through to the final answer. It doesn't require physical exertion - just a willingness to work cooperatively and a sense of fun and adventure.

Find out why this entertainment genre is growing so quickly in popularity for players of all ages. Book Today!

This past October for Hallowe'en we opened What Happened in Raven Woods at a new location, 691 Corydon. It's proven so popular we've kept it open, enticing those who want to challenge the woods. And now...

TOP OF THE CHARTS

NEW ROOM

Enigma Escapes will soon open our 7th game. It will be located across the hall from Raven Woods.

You've sold your soul and those of your bandmates to the Devil for a #1 Hit. Your only hope is to create your own within the Devil's deadline of 60 minutes!

Watch our Facebook for opening details.

ENTER TO WIN!

Get to know our Gamemasters.

Who's This?

First escape game played:
Nuclear Meltdown at Real Escape and then The Lost Jewel of Zanzibar at Enigma. Such a rush!

Fave part about being a Gamemaster:
Watching the excitement as groups escape and especially when they narrowly escape a room!

My life would be complete if:
I could travel and explore Iceland (Back to the roots!)

Life philosophy:
Some people are worth melting for.

Visit our GAMEMASTER page at enigmaescapes.com

Identify this Gamemaster for your chance to win a daily prize of a $25 Enigma Escapes gift certificate and a $25 Pony Corral gift certificate.

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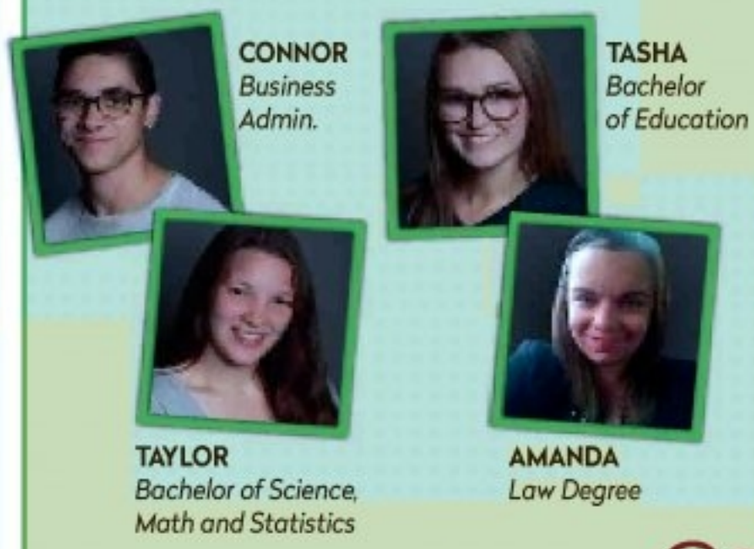
Our Gamemasters are a big part of what makes playing at Enigma Escapes so special and we looooove each and every one of them. But we want to take this opportunity to send out a huge SHOUT OUT to the following who will be graduating this spring.



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Gamemaster Brendan and his "assistant" Darrin building a prop for Raven Woods.

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Iceberg near-miss for oil platform

An iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland in February 2016.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

NEWFOUNDLAND

Husky says crew was ready for potential disconnect

A floating oil platform off Newfoundland has had a near-miss with an iceberg the size of a small office building.

Husky Energy said a "medium size" iceberg came within 180 metres of the SeaRose FPSO at about 5:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"We had an iceberg pass close by our production facility," Husky's Colleen McConnell said Thursday.

"We've been monitoring this particular piece of ice for awhile. It changed direction at about two in the morning, and we obviously had to respond quickly."

The Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board described the iceberg as 40 metres wide, 60 metres long and standing eight metres above the waterline.

The massive, 270-metre SeaRose is Husky's lone oil-producing asset in the area. Built in 2004, the red-hulled, ship-like vessel can also store up to 940,000 barrels. The board says Husky de-pressurized production wells and flushed flowlines with treated seawater, while the crew mustered in preparation for a potential disconnect.

But the iceberg passed without incident and was more than 500 metres away by 6 a.m.

The board says it is discussing the near-miss with Husky.

Icebergs are monitored constantly in the area, about 350 kilometres east of St. John's in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin, McConnell said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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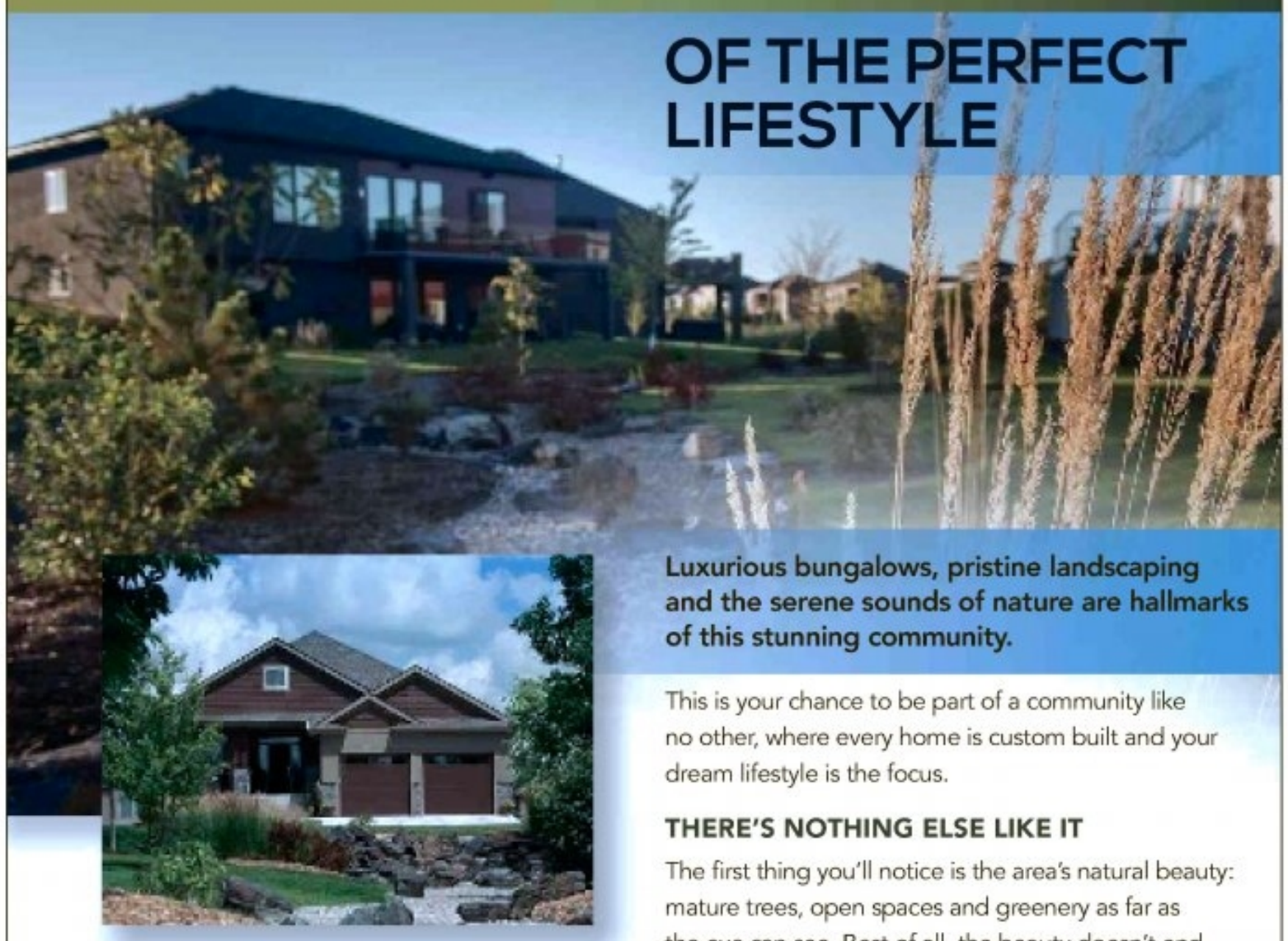

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MILITARY

General denies money troubles

The country's top soldier has pushed back on suggestions the armed forces is struggling from a lack of cash, saying he's not convinced it is making the most of the money it already gets.

Yet chief of defence staff Gen. Jonathan Vance says he is also eager to see the government's new defence policy, which has promised to put the military on a strong financial footing over the long term.

"The here and now is fine, we're delivering," Vance said in an interview with The Canadian Press. "But going forward, that's when the government committed to sustainable, progressive armed forces."

The question of military spending has taken on a life of its own over the last year, after U.S. President Donald Trump called on NATO allies to contribute more to their own defence.

Gen. Jonathan Vance
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada currently spends about one per cent of its GDP on defence, which is half the agreed-upon NATO target of two per cent and puts it in the bottom half among the allies.

Rather than increase defence spending, however, last week's federal budget saw the Liberal government delay hundreds of millions of dollars in planned equipment purchases by several years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK

WHO NEEDS TREES? GRASSLANDS NATIONAL PARK IN SOUTHERN SASKATCHEWAN EVOKES THE SPECTACULAR WIDE-OPEN SPACES OF THE OLD WEST. DEER, ANTELOPE AND BISON ROAM FREE, AND THERE ARE RATTLESNAKE WARNING SIGNS (OK, THEY DIDN'T HAVE THOSE IN PIONEER DAYS). **GREG PETZOLD**

Walking 'a tricky line'

SEX ASSAULT

Legal expert weighs in on defence tactics vs. complainant

Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

How far defence lawyers can go in questioning the credibility of a sexual assault complainant, and how much they were drinking, is a "tricky line," one Halifax expert says.

Wayne MacKay, Dalhousie University law professor, said he felt "disappointment" to see another taxi sexual assault case in court this week involving Saher Hamdan, less than a month after cabbie Bassam Al-Rawi was acquitted by Judge Gregory Lenehan in a controversial decision hinging on consent that drew national attention and is being appealed.

"That is troubling, because one would hope that taxis are safe places to be," MacKay said Thursday.

In Hamdan's case, the 19-year-old passenger testified in court Wednesday the driver rubbed her leg a few times without her consent, reached between her legs to pull a latch and slide back her seat, and he asked if he could kiss her the evening of July 15, 2016.

Defence lawyer John O'Neill extensively cross-examined the complainant on where her feet were in the cab at different points. Many readers commented on social media that they felt it was also irrelevant O'Neill questioned the woman at length about what she was drinking at the bar, and how much, before getting in the cab.

Even though the public conversation is shifting away from what a woman was drinking or wearing when an alleged assault occurs, with many pointing out the emphasis should be on the accused's actions, MacKay said the defence has a duty to represent their clients to the "fullest extent of the law" while remaining ethical and respectful.

A woman protests in Halifax earlier this month over Judge Gregory Lenehan's decision to find a Halifax taxi driver not guilty in a high-profile sexual assault case. JEFF HARPER/METRO HALIFAX

WORKPLACE

Millennials value mental health help

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

Millennials are looking for mental health support at work, according to a new survey from Centennial College and non-profit CivicAction, and more likely than other generations to use these kinds of services.

An Angus Reid survey of 1,521 adults found almost two-thirds of millennials expect to access mental health services at work.

Lindsay Balbirnie, a Centennial College public relations student who worked on the project, said they commissioned the survey to shed light on the mental health issues in the workplace.

"What we wanted to do was kind of draw the attention to the employers who would be hiring," she said.

Sarah Harris, communications director for CivicAction, said many millennials are in "a big transition point" at the beginning of their careers, which can be tough.

"You look at youth unemployment rates and things like that, it's definitely not easy for young people to find their footing in life," she said.

'PRAYING' POLAR BEAR STUNS PHOTOGRAPHER Jessica Andrews was scanning through photos she took of a polar bear when she came across one that stopped her in her tracks. The animal was squatting beneath a cross, its paws together and raised skyward as it looked up in a seemingly reverential pose. "When I started to go through to edit them, oh my God, I was like, 'Holy crap, he's praying!'"
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A Republican name game

Those on the right seem to think Trump is doing fine, problems are someone else's fault

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
From the U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump reacts with Secretary Tom Price and Vice President Mike Pence after Republicans abruptly pulled their health-care bill from the House floor on March 24. GETTY IMAGES

It was revealed, as U.S. President Donald Trump's kindergarten collage of a health-care bill collapsed last week under the warm reception of a toenail-clippings sandwich, that many Trump voters have an unusual malady.

They cannot comprehend that one bill could have two names. Many, upon hearing that the Republicans were going to repeal the Affordable Care Act and strip them of access to expanded Medicaid last week, balked. You see, they thought it was Obamacare that was supposed to get the heave-ho. They didn't realize they were the same thing.

Let's give a round of applause for Fox News. The natural home of the Republican party and anti-Obamacare sentiment.

The network synonymous with sexual assault lawsuits might be viewed among some Canadians as an unfortunate quirk of the U.S. media landscape, a bit of discolouring on an otherwise perfectly serviceable dress.

It is not.

Or rather, Fox News is the acid spew that threatens to ruin the entire thing: It is the most-watched news network in the U.S., and growing. The Los Angeles Times reported in late December that year-end numbers showed that "Fox News Channel was the most-watched network in all of cable with an average of 2.43 million viewers in prime time, up 36 per cent over last year."

Certainly, there's a distinction to be made between the thousands of local news reporters and programs, and the national news reporting teams, and people like Bill O'Reilly, the grubby-faced Fox News star.

But it is O'Reilly's brand of ... loyalty, to use Trump's favourite word, that currently characterizes the American right. This week, the president faced the kind of approval ratings you'd reserve mostly for people who don't pick up after their dogs: 36 per cent by March 24, according to Gallup.

Among Republicans, however, his support is soaring around the 90 per cent mark, down only 5 per cent week-to-week after the health-care bill flopped.

To recap: The president with an historically low overall approval rating is doing just fine, according to his base, according to polls. Certainly, we know enough at this point not to take polling at the same face value that you reserve for your tarot cards, but the sentiment — that some Trump voters believe he's doing a good job, and everything wrong in his first few months is someone else's fault — has been borne out by reporting. When radio-God-among-us Tom Ashbrook took his call-in show to Miami in mid-March, an older man who voted for Trump put it this way: "If (the democrats) allow him to do what he has in mind, he may be one of the best presidents in terms of bringing the economy back like it's supposed to be, that we've ever had."

Meanwhile, Breitbart News is gunning for Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, publishing every bad bit of news they can find on the GOP bill under the banner of "Ryancare."

At this rate, Trump might end up becoming the only president ever impeached, whilst entirely innocent. According to some.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Number of Syrian refugees tops 5 million mark

Displaced Syrians arrive in the village of Suwaidiya Saghira after fleeing their homes due to fighting against Daesh. GETTY IMAGES

The number of Syrians who have fled their country after six years of civil war has surpassed the 5-million mark, the UN refugee agency said on Thursday.

UNHCR announced the milestone a year after participating countries at a Geneva conference pledged to "resettle and facilitate pathways for 500,000 refugees" from Syria — but only half of those places have been allocated so far.

Meanwhile, the war in Syria is not letting up.

A Syrian doctor in a rebel-held area in the central province of Hama said government airstrikes were suspected of using toxic gas on Thursday on civilians and opposition fighters in the town of Latamneh. The doctor said his hospital treated nearly 40 people, including women and children, who were injured in two separate attacks early in the day. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported that 50 people were suffering from breathing difficulties following government barrel bombs.

This is the second time such reports from this area in Hama have emerged. The doctor, who uses the name of Abu Mohammed, out of fear of reprisals, said his hospital was directly hit by suspected toxic gas last Saturday, killing a 40-year-old surgeon who suffocated while performing a surgery.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global digest

GERMANY

Far-right party urges supporters to infiltrate police

A far-right party in Germany is urging its supporters to join the police force in the eastern state of Saxony to obtain information about migrants accused of committing crimes.

The National Democratic Party says supporters should also apply for Saxony's Security Watch — a volunteer unit that supports regular police — to gain insights into how law enforcement agencies work.

UNITED STATES

Judge extends temporary order blocking travel ban

A U.S. judge in Hawaii is keeping U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban on hold while the state's lawsuit works its way through the courts, the latest defeat for the government after it pushed for a freeze on the nation's refugee program to go forward.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson issued a 24-page order Wednesday extending his temporary order blocking the ban.

SOMALIA

Pentagon gets OK for more aggressive airstrikes

U.S. President Donald Trump has granted the U.S. military more authority to go after al-Qaida linked militants in Somalia, approving a Pentagon request to allow more aggressive airstrikes, officials said Thursday.

Portions of southern Somalia, excluding the capital Mogadishu, will be considered a warzone, officials said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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FOCUS ON FAMINE

DAY 5: Nigeria

Women and young girls wash clothes while others collect water in one of the hosting communities for internally displaced people in Maiduguri, Nigeria. Women and children have suffered most from the Boko Haram insurgency. Many of them are suffering from food insecurity and a lack of clean water and medical care. GETTY IMAGES

Situation not 'unsolvable'

United Nations warns that more than five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe are facing a food emergency

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

The trip was meant to instill some hope in an otherwise dire environment. Instead, it left Nene Akinten with serious concerns about the future.

"It was a very bad situation, but I could tell it was going to get worse," said Akinten, an Oakville resident originally from Nigeria.

Last year she teamed up with members of Relief International Nigeria Women in Diaspora to collect donations for the country's internally displaced people. With her three kids and a few other members, they visited four camps and spent days tutoring children and interacting with people who had fled both the Boko Haram violence and starvation.

It was a "gloomy" experience, said Akinten. Malnutrition was rampant. Subsisting on donations, no one could afford three meals a day. She heard people were already dying from lack of food in the northeastern states.

A year later, her fears have been confirmed. The United Nations has warned over five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe face a food emergency, and famine could break out by June. Insecurity is a big part of the problem, as close to two million residents have been forced out of their households and can no longer work on farming.

Nene Akinten, centre in green, visited four camps last year as part of an effort to help those affected by food shortages in northeast Nigeria. CONTRIBUTED

"If you don't die from hunger then these Boko Haram people will kill you. It's crazy," said Mustapha Daodu, an Edmonton-based reggae musician. Some of his family members still live in Borno, and he regularly sends money to support them.

"I'm really worried this whole famine will spread to the rest of the country very soon," he added.

Katherine Clark, who recently returned from a four-month assignment with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in northeast Nigeria, said the conflict has damaged infrastructure and made it difficult for people to access humanitarian aid.

"These aren't unsolvable problems," she said of the malnutrition and poor hygiene in camps. "People are healthy again after they're assisted. I don't think anybody should really go hungry in the world today."

BY THE NUMBERS | FAMINE IN NIGERIA

$99.9 million / **$1.1 billion**
Total funds raised so far / Funds required to avert a famine

5.1 million
The number of people who are currently food insecure in northeastern Nigeria

50,000
Number of people predicted to be suffering from famine by June

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Metro is chronicling the story through the lens of immigrants from the affected countries, with a focus on how people can get involved.

Monday Vicky Mochama on how Canada can step up its interventions.

Tuesday Focus on Somalia, and how this could be worse than 2011.

Wednesday Yemen, and the role of war in the ongoing famine.

Thursday The situation in South Sudan, the world's youngest country.

Friday Nigeria, with views from diaspora members and an expat.

READ THE ENTIRE SERIES
metronews.ca

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Nigerian-Canadians across the country are leading efforts to collect funds.

- **Relief International Nigeria Women in Diaspora** continues to co-ordinate relief efforts for those affected by the food shortage. Contact akintanfamily@gmail.com for more information.
- **MSF-Canada** provides medical and humanitarian assistance to people in the four states and other parts of northern Nigeria. More at msf.ca
- **Action Against Hunger** runs emergency food and nutrition programs in northern Nigeria and other countries facing famine. More at actioncontrelafaim.ca
- **World Vision** is the biggest implementing partner of the World Food Program in East Africa. Private donations can be made at worldvision.ca

metro SCIENCE

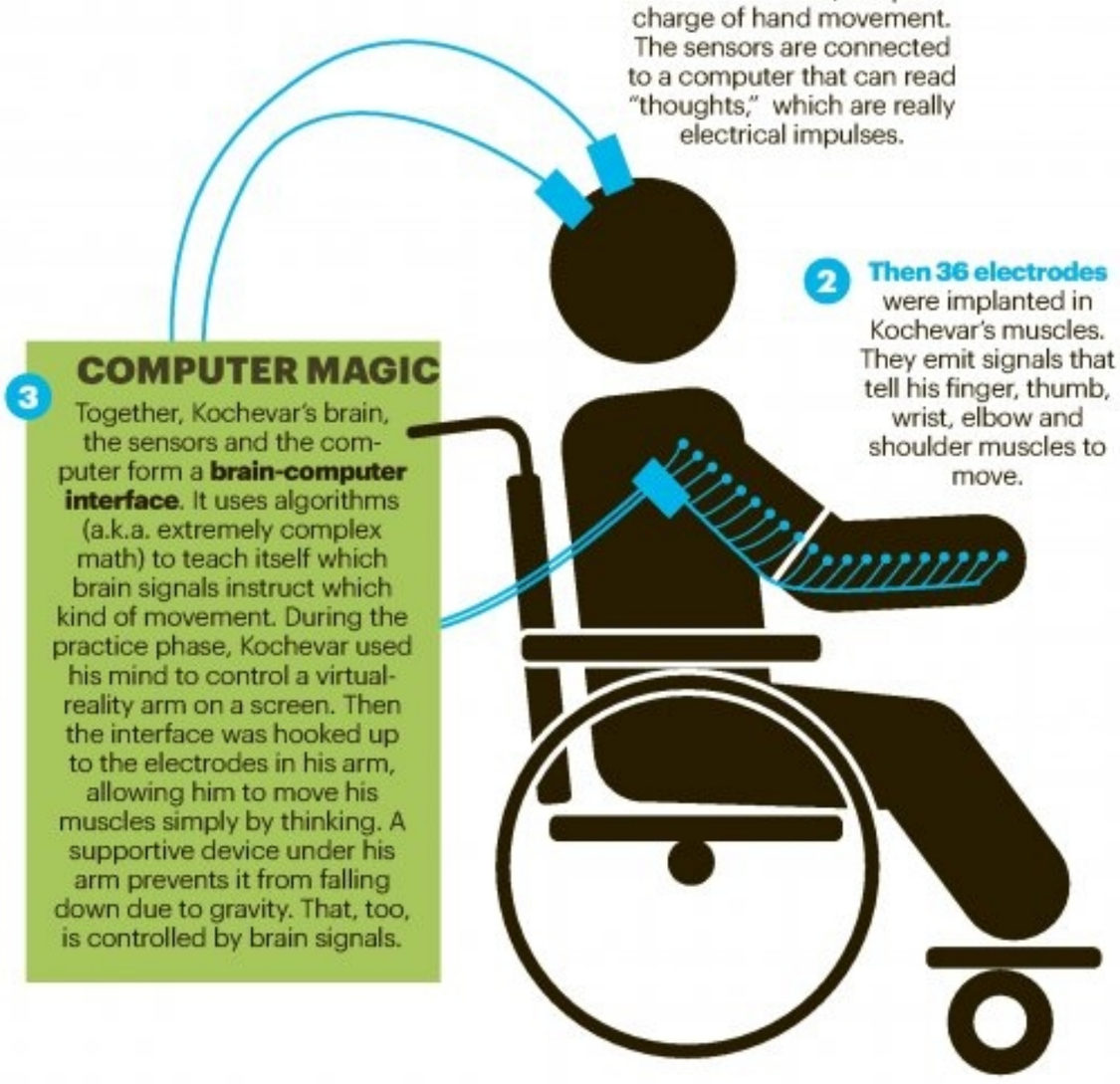
Your essential science news

Roaring back? Two credible sightings have scientists out looking for the Tasmanian tiger, believed extinct since 1936

DECODED by Genna Buck and Andrés Plana

MOVING HIS HAND WITH HIS MIND

Eight years ago, Bill Kochevar's bicycle collided with the back of a mail truck and his life changed forever. He was paralyzed from the tops of his shoulders down. But now his hand can reach and grasp again. He can feed himself and sip a cup of coffee. And he does it exactly the same way able-bodied people do: Intuitively, just by thinking about it.



REACHING FOR THE FUTURE

See videos of Bill's bionic hand at metronews.ca

This one-person study, published this week in the journal The Lancet, is the first time brain sensors and muscle electrodes have been used at the same time to restore reaching and grasping movements to a person with complete paralysis. The technology is not ready for use outside the lab, but that hasn't quelled Kochevar's enthusiasm. He said, **"I'm still wowed every time I do something. I ate a pretzel. I drank water."**

FINDINGS
Your week in science

PLAYING CHICKEN WITH JUPITER

It's name is BeeZed, and it's one gutsy little asteroid. A new University of Western Ontario study found the object is orbiting the sun in the opposite direction of other asteroids in its neighbourhood (picture a car driving the wrong way down the highway, with 6,000 cars coming in the other direction), and its path takes it very close to Jupiter. But it hasn't collided because it's thrown off, thankfully, by the giant planet's gravity.

SOUND SMART

DEFINITION
Epigenetics is the study of how genes are switched on and off. You can't change the genetic code you inherited from your parents. But your environment can change how genes are expressed.

USE IT IN A SENTENCE
Carlos's identical twin is a faster runner and has a higher IQ than him. They have the same genetic code, so those differences are probably due to **epigenetics**.

CITIZEN SCIENTIST by Genna Buck

Famine isn't over when it's over

Twenty million people are at risk of starvation as famines sweep Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan.

Canadians, richly blessed as we are, should be giving more than our fair share to help stop the suffering — for the sake of the victims, their children and even their grandkids.

That's because when the immediate crisis passes, it won't actually be in the past. An emerging body of science shows starvation leaves invisible scars, layered on the genes of famine victims.

Starvation and nutrient deficiency profoundly alter our body chemistry, including by disturbing the precisely regulated process of turning particular genes on and off at particular times. This DNA on/off switch is called **methylation** — a process of sticking certain molecules onto genes to change their function.

We don't exactly know why methylation gets messed up during starvation, but we've seen the results: Poor health outcomes among people who live through famine. It's especially acute for children whose mothers were starved during pregnancy. And those changes can be passed on. Tragically, history has left researchers with no shortage of natural experiments.

Children who were in the womb during the Dutch Hunger Winter of 1944-1945 grew up to have higher risk of heart disease, obesity and schizophrenia. Their children were more likely to be born too small, yet grew up to suffer disproportionately from obesity.

Children of mothers who lived through China's calamitous 1959-1961 famine suffer from hyperglycemia at double the normal rate. The same is true of their children. Research on victims of the 1974-1975 famine in Bangladesh suggests this effect may be due to methylation of the PAX8 gene, which regulates the thyroid and is involved in metabolism.

I could go on. But do you really need another reason to support famine relief?

Science Question?
genna.buck@metronews.ca

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Look who's baby-talking now

NEW RELEASE

Alec Baldwin isn't the first to lend his voice to a newborn

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Miles Bakshi lends his voice to Tim, while Alec Baldwin voices the titular Boss Baby in the new Dreamworks animated film. DREAMWORKS ANIMATION VIA AP

In the movies anything is possible. Superheroes routinely save the earth, regular folks can afford to live in fancy New York apartments and infants can talk.

This weekend Alec Baldwin lends his distinctive, raspy voice to the title character of The Boss Baby. Based on a 36-page book by Marla Frazee, it's a feature length riff on Look Who's Talking as imagined by Family Guy's Stewie Griffin.

"I may look like a baby but I was born all grown up," Boss Baby boasts as he drops into the Templeton family, upsetting only child Tim's carefree life. Wearing a suit onesie, BB carries a briefcase and speaks the language of the boardroom.

Seems he's from a purveyor of fine babies, a company that supplies tots via a chute. Those who giggle when tickled are placed with families, those who don't, like Boss Baby, are sentenced to a Kafka-esque, humourless life in BabyCorp management, kept infant-sized by special formula.

With lines like, "You know who else wears a diaper? Astronauts," Boss Baby has the movies's best speeches, expertly delivered by Baldwin but he's not the first talking baby to grace the big screen.

Leone LeDoux was an actor who, when she wasn't voicing Minnie Mouse in cartoons of the 1930s and 1940s, made a career out of supplying baby vocals for movies. Some, like her work in the short Water Babies, involved creating childlike sounds for on screen infants while others were more involved. In The Reluctant Dragon she gives voice to child genius Baby Weems.

"You're a quiet little fellow, aren't you?" coos the nurse.

"Well, there really isn't much to talk about," replies Weems.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Ghost in the Shell	★★★
The Boss Baby	★★★
The Zookeeper's Wife	★★★
Obit	★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Other movie babies have had more to say.

Amy Heckerling came up with the idea for the Citizen Kane of talking toddler movies, Look Who's Talking, when she and screenwriter husband Neal Israel were playing with their new baby. "My husband and I started to put words in her mouth...what she might be thinking based on her expressions," she told the Los Angeles Times.

The playful game blossomed into a film starring Kristie Alley, John Travolta and Bruce Willis as the voice of talking newborn Mikey. Heckerling notes that Willis frequently went off script, improvising X-rated lines that couldn't be used in the film.

The movie gave Travolta's career a shot in the arm — he hadn't acted in five years — and started a talking baby trend in pop culture. The next year the sitcom Baby Talk starred the vocal stylings of Tony Danza as Baby Mickey, son of single mom Maggie.

More recently the baritone voiced E-Trade baby, frequently voiced by comedian Pete Holmes, looked to Heckerling's movie for inspiration.

From 2008 to 2014 Elayne Rapping, professor of American Studies at SUNY/Buffalo says the spokesbaby "humanized the whole business of trading. While other babies are just pictures, this one has a personality that is pure pop culture."

Finally, back on the big screen Baby Geniuses sees Kathleen Turner and Christopher Lloyd as scientists who think that babies are born knowing the secrets of the universe.

To learn those secrets they try to decode goo-goo-ga-ga baby talk. Roger Ebert put this movie on his "Most Hated" list and the Stinkers bad Movie Awards nominated Leo, Gerry and Myles Fitzgerald, the triplets who played Sly, the baby genius, as Worst Child Performer.

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The Zookeeper's Wife's noble fight

WARTIME DRAMA

Based on a true story, film explores anti-Nazi war efforts

The Zookeeper's Wife stars Jessica Chastain and Johan Heldenbergh and opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

Antonina Zabinski has an idyllic life.

At the Warsaw zoo that she and her husband Jan run, she nurses lion cubs in her home and a young camel dutifully accompanies her as she bicycles on her daily rounds tending to the animals.

All that changes dramatically with the German invasion of Poland and the advent of the Second World War.

Based on a true story, The Zookeeper's Wife chronicles the couple's efforts to rescue Jews from the infamous Warsaw ghetto and to further risk their own lives by housing them secretly in a basement hideout.

"That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts," notes Antonina (played by Jessica Chastain).

Certainly, Antonina begins to see the worst in the human beings around her, personified in the form of Lutz Heck (Daniel Bruhl), the chief zoologist for the Nazi regime.

She reluctantly forms an uneasy relationship — one that hints of romance — when Heck nearly uncovers the presence of others in the family home. Inevitably, it causes strains in her marriage.

Director Niki Caro does an able job of capturing the period detail and creating an atmosphere of tension and danger.

Chastain is an appealing protagonist, radiating an aura of determination in the face of uncertainty and adversity — and getting the Polish accent just right.

Johan Heldenbergh plays Jan with a quiet stoicism and strength and the relationship between the two is believable.

The weak link may be the performance of Bruhl as Heck, a character who's more oily than menacing, making him a less-than-persuasive villain.

That's why I love animals so much. You look in their eyes and see exactly what's in their hearts.

Antonina, played by Jessica Chastain

The film details several key dates in the couple's years-long struggle but their significance won't always be clear to filmgoers without detailed historical knowledge.

History may in fact be the film's biggest challenge in drawing an audience.

The period and the monstrous persecution and extermination of Europe's Jews have been covered extensively and memorably in so many other previous films.

While The Zookeeper's Wife is a reasonably accomplished work, it would be difficult to argue that it breaks new ground or offers a fresh perspective on those horrific times.

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Scarlett Johansson plays a conflicted and butt-kicking cyborg in the new live-action take on manga/anime classic Ghost in the Shell. CONTRIBUTED

What's beneath the sexy surface

REVIEW

Casting saves live-action take on manga-anime classic

Anime exemplar Ghost in the Shell was a singular sensation in 1995, boldly anticipating the coming digital world even as it revisited old ideas of human minds inhabiting machine forms.

The new live-action take, starring Scarlett Johansson as a conflicted and butt-kicking cyborg, isn't quite so innovative. The film slavishly revisits not only the original inspiration but such other sci-fi landmarks as Blade Runner and Metropolis, creating an unsettling feeling not unlike the "uncanny valley" effect more common to photorealistic animation.

With Rupert Sanders at the helm, a situation akin to his earlier Snow White and the Huntsman ensues. The picture looks great, with seamless CGI and artful imagery, but the committee-written screenplay is of artificial rather than intelligent design.

Casting saves the movie, notwithstanding the thorny issue of cultural appropriation. Johansson plays a character, known variously as Mira and Major, who was originally drawn as Asian, right back to the 1989 manga that spawned what has become a multimedia franchise.

But talent trumps optics, as Tilda Swinton proved in Doctor Strange, and ScarJo has bona fides to spare: she honed her action chops in The Avengers, rocked alien animus in Under the Skin and clicked a computing mind in She.

Kudos, too, for an uncommonly good supporting cast. Juliette Binoche exudes empathy as not-so-mad scientist Dr. Ouelet, who refines the "cerebral salvage" technique that places the surviving brain of fatally injured Mira — victim of a terrorist attack, she's told — into the curvaceous "shell" of super-soldier Major. She'll be joining the terrorist-fighting Section 9 unit of her Asian metropolis, where humans, machines and holograms jostle.

Mira/Major's male foils are macho yet still interesting: Denmark's Pilou Asbaek makes a mean sidekick Batou, despite sporting artificial peepers that regretfully recall Little Orphan Annie; Michael Pitt's brings an Island of Misfit Toys melancholy to his Kuze character, whose subterranean presence and slowly revealed motivations bring needed emotion; and Japanese actor/director "Beat" Takeshi Kitano makes the most of very few words as the unbending Ministry of Defence official who controls Section 9.

All are in service, alas, of a story drawn from an Existentialism 101 course outline, wherein Mira/Major keeps trying to figure out how much of her is human, how much is machine and who's fooling who?

She keeps talking about how she's "the first of her kind," but that sounds even more derivative than it did in 1995. The conceit of a human mind inside of a mechanical body is almost as old as the movies, dating back to the Maria/Maschinenmensch dual character of Fritz Lang's Metropolis, released in 1927.

Mira/Major's government and corporate overlords, of course, would prefer she concentrate more on doing than thinking. When she stops brooding and gets clobbering, she does so in spectacular fashion, taking on creeps that include a brain-sucking mechanical geisha and a humungous robot spider.

She does it all while dressed in a nude bodysuit that makes her look for all the world like a giant unclothed Barbie doll, an unnecessary concession to series fidelity. Then as now, it's about nothing more than fanboy titillation.

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Sasheer Zamata finds her voice in new show

Sasheer Zamata says her act and voice has become more political and biting, compared to before SNL where she says she was "more cute." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

INTERVIEW

Pizza Mind debuts on the Internet platform Seeso

Some believe you haven't really made it in comedy until you've landed a one-hour stand-up special. If that's true, then Saturday Night Live writer and comedian Sasheer Zamata has officially made it.

Zamata, a former member of the Upright Citizens Brigade who plays a mean Beyonce and Rihanna on NBC's SNL, debuts her first special, Pizza Mind, on the Internet platform Seeso on Thursday. The Associated Press sat down with the 30-year-old funny woman to ask about her special, her sketch skills and why you shouldn't ask her to "do Beyonce."

You were hired to appear on SNL in 2014 in the wake of criticism of a lack of ethnic diversity. It was all very public. How did you handle that?
That stressed me out. I kind of just stayed at home a lot. People knew too much. People would text me and be like, 'What's the process like?' 'What's Lorne Michaels like?' I was like, 'This shouldn't even be your business.'

How have the last few years been on SNL?
As a writer and a performer, I'm definitely evolving because I'm learning the language of the show more and learning how to fit my voice into the mould that they've already created.

What about outside the show?
My actual act and voice has become more political and biting. I feel like before SNL I was more cute and maybe I'd beat around the bush. Now I'm very direct.

What was a favourite sketch you wrote this season?
The Stranger Things sketch that happened in the fall, where parents come and snatch a character from the woods. That came from a real thought. I was watching Stranger Things — I ate it up; immediately I was a fan — but the whole time I was watching, I was like, 'My parents would FLIP if I was in the woods running around looking for monsters.' I was like, 'Where are his parents? Why aren't they concerned?'

How does it feel to have your first special?
It's so cool to be able to put all my work in one spot and have people see what I do best.

What can we expect?
Definitely a collection of stories and material that I've had over the years. Some newer stuff, too. And different mediums and art forms used to express my thoughts in different ways. Like music and songs and little sketches and characters. It's a mix. It's not just a standard stand-up format. I mean, there's an hour of stand-up, but there's also extra goodies in there, too.

In it, you make fun of strangers who come up and demand impressions from you. Does it really bug you?
I just joke about it. It doesn't bother me that much. But anyone asking someone to do an impression on command or tell a joke on command is asking for it. I'm not a dog.

You rock your natural hair. Have you had any pressure to look a certain way?
I am really glad that no one told me to change my hair. Since I've been doing comedy, my hair has been an Afro. I've never had anyone be like, 'You need to straighten it' or 'Could you wear a wig?' or anything like that and I think that's really cool. I'm glad people get to see me look the way I do because it's good to have representation in different areas and looks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Brilla: Juno's lack of women a bad sign

MUSIC INDUSTRY

Singer wants to see a better balance in the industry

Alysha Brilla wasn't surprised by the lack of female representation when this year's Juno Awards nominees were announced.

Years ago, the Waterloo, Ont.-based musician and producer decided to conduct an experiment. She carefully tabulated the gender diversity among Juno nominees and found there wasn't much at all, particularly in the technical categories, which were completely dominated by men.

After scrolling through this year's list of contenders — the winners are announced this weekend in Ottawa — she concluded little has changed.

"I don't want to see women take over the industry. I want to see a balance," says Brilla, a two-time Juno nominee for best adult contemporary album.

FOUR

Brilla points to data that shows only four women have won the producer award in the 45 years that Junos have been handed out; the engineer prize has never gone to a woman.

Album categories including country, adult alternative, francophone, classical, contemporary Christian, rap, R&B/soul and reggae all only have one female nominee each. Both the engineer and producer of the year categories don't have a single female nominee.

When Brilla raised the issue with Junos brass in the past the response she got shocked her.

Representatives said better diversity at the Junos would only happen if more women became members of the Canadian Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (CARAS).

"The woman on the phone said to me, 'We don't have a lot of female voters so if you could find us some, that would be great,'" Brilla remembers.

"So I went out and did the work. I solicited every woman I knew who was technically qualified — who works in the industry. I asked artist friends, asked production friends and brought back a couple to them."

She waited until the next year to see if her efforts made a difference in the list of Juno nominees. They didn't, she says.

Sara Quin says the conversation motivated her to write letters to about 250 women in the industry. She plans to urge them to pay the CARAS membership fee, vote and "get more involved."

It's an initiative that sounds familiar to other prominent musicians.

"I did exactly what Sara did — last year," says Amy Millan, a member of Broken Social Scene and Stars.

"I wrote (Sarah) Harmer, Sarah Slean and Jenn Grant and I wrote all these women and said, 'Are you a member of CARAS?' Most of them came back and they said, 'No, because what's the point?' "

Millan doesn't exactly blame the Junos, but she doesn't think it's helping matters either.

She believes the awards show is emblematic of a bigger problem plaguing Canada's music industry and that women aren't getting a fair shake.

Last year, Millan drew attention to a lack of women among the 2016 Juno nominees with the Twitter hashtag #JunosSoMale, a nod to the #OscarsSoWhite movement. It was quickly embraced by other musicians including electro-pop singer Grimes, who is nominated this year for three Junos including alternative album.

Musician Alysha Brilla, a two-time Juno nominee for best adult contemporary album, found there is a lack of gender diversity among Juno nominees. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"I did not expect it to garner nationwide attention," Millan says. "It opened a floodgate of questions for all of us."

Her move also pushed the Junos to respond, with the organization's president saying the Junos are only mirroring the broader music industry.

"We simply reflect what comes to us, what's submitted," says Allan Reid, president of CARAS and the Junos.

Putting the blame on CARAS voters doesn't necessarily make sense either. Overall its membership is 42 per cent female, he notes. Instead, the problem is reflected more clearly in who submits their work to the Junos, Reid argues.

This year, only nine women put their names in for producer of the year among 118 contenders, he says. That's little changed from last year when women represented seven of 119 submissions, either solo or as part of a team.

Winners for the production category are voted on by active members of the Canadian music producer community who are also CARAS members.

Reid believes there are bigger questions surrounding why more women don't submit to the technical categories.

Brilla scoffs at the sentiment that women aren't interested in technical work. She believes responsibility lies with the music industry, which she says does little to encourage young women to pursue fields traditionally reserved for men.

In high school, she enrolled in a recording studio co-op that left her feeling like the "weird one." When she looked around the industry for female production mentors, she found there were hardly any.

"Women aren't making money behind the scenes," she says. "They're often the ones simply fronting the whole operation."

Hill Kourkoutis, a Toronto-based producer, takes a more optimistic outlook on the industry.

While she used to frequently encounter people shocked to learn she worked behind a mixing console, she's finding that sentiment is slowly changing.

Over the past few years she says she's witnessed a spike in the number of young women interested in production and believes it signals a "transitional period" for the industry.

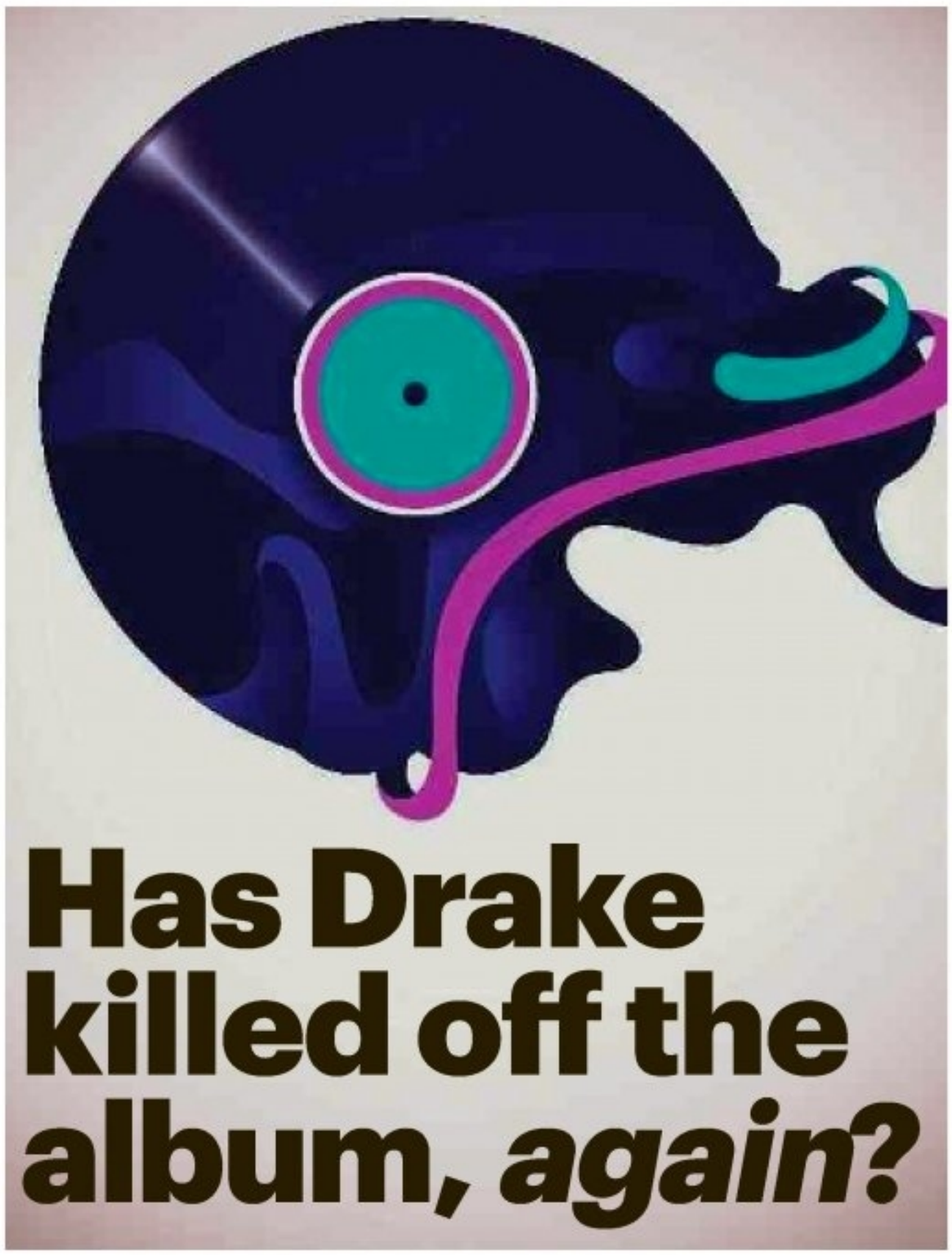
"There is that stigma to overcome, but that's been experienced in other industries," says Kourkoutis. "It's just a game of catch-up at this point."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ANALYSIS

More Life is the soundtrack to an evolving music industry

Joe Callaghan
For Metro | Toronto



Has Drake killed off the album, *again*?

The great and the good of Canadian music will gather this weekend in the nation's capital and vie for Album of the Year Junos — 25 of them, to be exact.

We shouldn't be surprised that with so many genres to trundle through, it takes two full days for the Juno Awards to run their annual course.

The exhaustive list of contenders for various album honours is all the more impressive given the most perplexing question facing today's music industry: do we even know what an album is any more?

The 2017 Junos take place at a time when the country's Billboard Album Chart isn't even topped by an album. Drake's More Life was released March 18 and immediately went in at No. 1.

But Canada's hip hop king insists the 22-track collection is not an album. Nor is it another mixtape (to go with the four of those that he's already released). Instead More Life, fittingly for the streaming era, is a playlist. And it's a hell of a playlist.

More Life is an expansive, expressive journey that won quick critical acclaim and further cemented the Toronto rapper's status as a visionary talent. But through that vision, Drake continues to blur the lines.

"The idea of an album is something that's a relic, right?" says Mark Campbell, a professor in the school of media at Ryerson University and the founding director of Northside Hip Hop Archive, a digital anthology of Canadian hip hop history and culture.

"It's something that's not relevant to young people today. But Drake continually pushes up against this idea of an album — his mixtapes, now his playlists. I think it's because he senses that his audience needs to be engaged in a different way. It's really only people like me who are 35 or 40-plus who are actually interested in hearing a cohesive album."

The death of the album has been declared on an all too regular basis since the dawn of digital music. Drake's own 2015 release If You're Reading This It's Too Late was a mixtape that ended up being nominated for a Grammy. Kanye West's The Life of Pablo was "a living, breathing creative expression."

Critics pointed to both as signalling the official end of the traditional album.

Last year's industry statistics sum up just how altered the music environment is in the streaming age.

In Canada alone, more songs were streamed per day (97M) than were purchased over the entire year (75M.) Total album sales for 2016 (including physical copies, downloads and streams) reached 43.3M but that figure was dwarfed by the 22.3BN total audio streams, according to the in-depth report by BuzzAngle Music.

"The idea of the playlist, I think he's trying to gesture towards something more intimate, more personal.
Professor Mark Campbell on More Life

"The industry didn't really take the album as an artform seriously probably until the mid 1960s with the Beatles and the Stones and the Summer of Love," Eric Alper, veteran music publicist and analyst, told Metro. "But if you take a look at the superstar artists of today — the Weeknd, Drake, Justin Bieber, Alessia Cara, Shawn Mendes — it's all about the single. It's all about what song are we going to put out now.

It's an environment in which the album as once known by baby boomers and Gen X seems almost quaint.

This summer in Canada U2 will kick off a worldwide stadium tour in honour of the 30th anniversary of their flagship album, The Joshua Tree.

But with More Life Drake may also be harking back in his own way — to the golden age of the hip hop mixtape — to stay ahead.

"In one way he's trying to gesture himself forward as someone who is relatable to kids that may have never physically purchased music in their life," says Campbell. "Kids of 17, 18 years old who would never have had the experience of buying a CD."

By calling it a playlist, Drake is branding it as something intimate or personal, Campbell adds.

"When Obama has a playlist on Spotify, it tells you everything we need to know about the era that we're living in. People are so detached from each other digitally that we have to find new ways to reconnect. A playlist is a way to do it. Just like the mixtape was."

Alper concurs on Drake's ability to dictate where the curve turns next. He also argues that we shouldn't get so hung up on definitions but instead embrace the organic meaning of an album and celebrate this era of mass consumption.

"Music has never been more consumed, more watched, more talked about at any other time in its history. For $10 I can have access to every single song in recorded history — that's a brilliant thing."

In that context, listeners get to decide what to call a collection of songs, and that means definitions are likely to change again, Alper says.

"So (the album) is whatever the artist wants it to be and it's whatever the fan thinks that it is. We just want to make sure that artists continue to get paid and we have great music at our fingertips."

BEHIND THE SCENES

Why there's no *can't* in Mike WiLL's vocabulary

Mike Will Made-It has really made it after the producer saw major success co-producing Beyoncé's Formation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Producer on rise as one of music's hottest hit-makers

Whenever Mike WiLL Made-It receives any praise for his work on Beyonce's anthemic Formation, he thinks about all of the people who doubted he would ever work with the Grammy-winning pop star.

"Back then, I was like, 'Man I could do something crazy for Beyonce.' But they was like, '... Beyonce don't be working with just anybody bro,'" he recalled. "Now, I'm to the point where I'm face-to-face with Beyonce in the studio, and all that plays in my head.

"It's basically not letting anyone tell you what you can't do."

Mike WiLL stayed true to the advice his father gave him a long time ago — to remove "can't" from his vocabulary. It has helped him reach his goals as a producer and songwriter, and craft hits like Rihanna's Pour It Up, Juicy J's Bandz a Make Her Dance and Miley Cyrus' We Can't Stop. He also executive produced Cyrus' Bangerz, her 2013 album that pushed her to full-blown pop star status, and he has produced for Kanye West, Lil Wayne, Nicki Minaj and more.

But last year Mike WiLL saw his biggest success as he co-produced and co-wrote Beyonce's Formation, which earned him, and Beyonce, Grammy nominations for song and record of the year.

He also produced Rae Sremmurd's Black Beatles, which reached the No. 1 spot on the Billboard Hot 100 for seven weeks.

The song, featuring Gucci Mane, became so popular that it often served as background music to the viral Mannequin Challenge, where people acted motionless while the camera scans them.

Despite the skeptics, Atlanta-raised Mike WiLL has really made it.

"Everybody was against him," said Swae Lee of Rae Sremmurd, the rap duo that includes his brother Slim Jxmmi (the group is signed Mike WiLL's Ear Drummer Records).

"But he stays locked in on the art," Swae Lee continued. "He's focused on his craft. He's not worried about no one else. Today, he's like one of the greats in the industry."

Now, Mike WiLL has taken the next step as a producer: He released his debut album, Ransom 2, last week — a day after his 28th birthday. The album features Kendrick Lamar, Rihanna, Big Sean and Young Thug.

"He'll take a small idea and make it into a big one," Slim Jxmmi said of Mike WiLL. "I've seen him take one of my freestyles and make a whole entire song out of it. ... Mike has this knack for putting it all together into a big song."

A freestyle is actually what led to Formation.

When Swae Lee blurted out, "OK ladies, let's get in formation," during a car ride to the Coachella music festival, Mike WiLL knew he had something.

"Swae Lee might have a laundry list of voice notes, but never records the song," the producer said. "But I told him we got to record this. In my mind, I'm thinking we're going to get this to Beyonce. I'm thinking about it being a woman empowerment song like Single Ladies."

Working on Formation forced Mike WiLL to push back his own album, but also gave him time to hone his sound and tweak the songs.

"I wanted to drop an album I feel good about, that I feel strong about," he said of Ransom 2, the follow-up to Ransom, his 2014 mixtape.

"Ever since I started doing mixtapes, it's always been a dream for me to release an album. Like how Timbaland had everybody on his album."

"Everybody was against him. But he stays locked in on the art.
Swae Lee, of Rae Sremmurd

And like Timbaland, Mike WiLL has a goal of producing for more A-list acts, including Adele.

He said he spoke with the British singer's manager about working on her 25 comeback album, but it never panned out.

"I feel like we can come together and do a song that's never been heard of," he said.

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PUBLIC SERVICE MATTERS

Demanding more support for Manitoba students

Decision to scrap the K-3 class-size cap to negatively impact student outcomes

In March, the Manitoba government took a big step backwards when it announced that it was scrapping the kindergarten to Grade 3 class-size cap.

The K-3 class-size initiative was introduced by the previous NDP government in 2012 and school divisions were given until September 2016 to comply. Still in its infancy, the current government decided to abolish the cap even though study after study shows that, all else being equal, lower class sizes result in improved student outcomes.

Adequate time for students and teachers to connect is at the heart of student success stories. All the gains since the beginning of this program will be cast aside. As for the claim that there is no evidence to show smaller class sizes work, that is absolutely not true. There is plenty of research to back up the benefits of a class size cap.

In 2014, the National Education Policy Centre released a study that said increasing class sizes will harm student outcomes and that not only will test scores be hurt, but in the longer run more social and educational costs will be incurred.

In 2011, Alberta Education's Commission on Class Size found in reviewing literature on the effectiveness smaller class sizes that:

- Class size makes a big difference. This is one of the most discussed and researched topics in education,
- Parents and teachers agree it makes a big difference in student academic outcomes,
- The biggest gains are for those in early year grades, especially for poor and minority children, and
- By 2002, 32 of 50 US States had implemented a class-size reduction program or introduced legislation to limit class sizes.

ISTOCK

Today's classrooms are more complex than ever, so giving students more teacher attention in their early years is vital in order for them to develop the tools they need to learn and grow. Teachers know that smaller class sizes pay dividends throughout students' lives — and parents know that Manitoba's children need more support, not less.

LOCALS GIVE TEACHERS HIGH MARKS

An overwhelming number of Manitobans feel that classrooms in the province are more complex than ever and students need more support, according to a recent public survey.

The poll found that 83 per cent of respondents either agreed (47.5 per cent) or strongly agreed (35.8 per cent) with the statement: "Today's classrooms are more complex than ever, with students with many diverse needs and behaviours.

"The government needs to provide our kids with more support, not less."

Commissioned by The Manitoba Teachers' Society, the survey polled Manitobans across the province on a wide range of educational issues.

The respondents also said that the province should not cut spending on public schools. Less than five per cent said there should be cuts, while 56.5 per cent said funding should be increased. Another 34.5 per cent said funding should remain at the level it is now. However, this year the government announced a one per cent increase, which represents the lowest funding in years and sits at less than half the rate of inflation for the province at a time of rising enrolment throughout Manitoba.

ISTOCK

The survey also showed Manitobans have a positive view of teachers. Asked about their feelings toward public school teachers, 88 per cent said they had either a very favourable (42.2 per cent) view or a somewhat favourable (46.2 per cent) view of teachers. Less than eight per cent had an unfavourable view.

The survey showed Manitobans have a wide range of opinions on what are the most difficult aspects of a teacher's job. The two largest challenges noted were "dealing with students and their problems" (26.8 per cent) and discipline (15.8 per cent). Other issues mentioned were class composition, dealing with parents, teaching and preparation and class size.

When asked to name who they felt most responsible for problems facing Manitoba public schools, most respondents cited school boards and trustees (33.4 per cent), the provincial government (26.8 per cent), parents (14 per cent) and teachers (6.3 per cent).

Asked where education fell among the various issues facing the province as a whole, most felt it was well down the list. Only five per cent felt education was the most important issue facing Manitobans. That fell below health care, taxes, the economy, jobs and infrastructure.

Manitoba Teachers' Society

The Manitoba Teachers' Society is the collective bargaining and professional development organization for all of Manitoba's 15,000 public school teachers.

Founded in 1919, the society provides assistance to local associations in collective bargaining, offers professional development workshops and lobbies government on legislation that affects education, students and teachers.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society is dedicated to safeguarding the welfare of teachers, the status of the teaching profession and the cause of public education in Manitoba.

For more news from The Manitoba Teachers' Society, visit mbteach.org or follow along on Twitter twitter.com/mbteachers and Instagram at instagram.com/mbteachers/.

Teachers know our kids need more support.

The Manitoba Teachers' Society

Building a strong community by placing value on workers

More than 120,000 Manitoba workers to have wages frozen

Manitobans rely on quality, accessible public services. These services are delivered every day by hard-working public sector workers in every community across the province.

In hospitals, community clinics, municipalities, schools, crown corporations, and social services: public sector workers do their best to provide the services you and your family rely on, because public sector workers rely on these services too.

"There is often a misunderstanding about who public sector workers are, and what they do" says Kelly Moist, president of CUPE Manitoba. "The reality is these folks work in schools, take care of your loved ones in care homes, are at the forefront of dealing with poverty in our communities, and even help businesses succeed in the province by helping them navigate the system."

All the diverse roles performed by public sector workers play an important part in ensuring the prosperity of Manitoba.

Cuts to public service will hurt our communities. "Unfortunately some governments are misguided in their approach to public services," says Moist. "Wage freezes and service cuts, for example, will harm not only the workers and their families, but will also undermine the quality of services Manitobans deserve."

Recent announcements by the provincial government will leave more than 120,000 Manitobans with frozen wages that won't even keep up with the rate of inflation. Additionally, thousands more in both the private and public sector who work minimum wage jobs will see no growth in their wages at all.

"We need to do a better job at valuing all workers in this province," says Moist. "Whether it's negotiating a fair deal at the bargaining table, or lifting up the lowest paid workers, Manitobans deserve more, not less".

HEU SENIORS' CARE

Additionally the provincial government announced cuts to health care, Manitoba Hydro, and has reduced funding to critical community organizations.

"We need to work together to build stronger communities," concludes Moist. "This means investing in our public services and the people who provide them.

Manitobans support keeping Power Smart

Manitoba Hydro's Power Smart energy savings program enjoys strong support among Manitobans, according to recent polling conducted by Probe Research for Local 998 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

"Our polling results show 94 per cent support for Power Smart," said Chris Mravinec, president of CUPE Local 998, representing more than 1,000 technical and clerical workers at Hydro. "This high support is steady across all age, income and geographic groups and does not depend on whether or not respondents had made use of the program."

"Polling also shows that 78 per cent of respondents think Manitoba Hydro should continue to run Power Smart, while only 12 per cent prefer a new agency and 10 per cent are unsure," added Mravinec.

Poll results are based on a random sample of 1,000 respondents, and there is 95 per cent certainty that the results are within ± 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba had been interviewed.

ISTOCK

IT IS NEITHER EFFICIENT NOR COST EFFECTIVE TO CHANGE SOMETHING THAT WORKS SO WELL AND ENJOYS SO MUCH PUBLIC SUPPORT AND INDUSTRY SUPPORT.

– Chris Mravinec

The polling results support CUPE's concerns about the provincial government's plans to remove the Power Smart program from Hydro. Any new agency tasked with running Power Smart would require set-up and transition costs, and ongoing costs associated with a new board and administration.

Hydro could end up buying back services that Manitobans currently own and receive through their public utility. Furthermore, the "carving away" of programs from Hydro sets it up for potential privatization down the road.

"We urge the provincial government to take note of Manitobans' strong support for keeping Power Smart as part of Manitoba Hydro," said Mravinec. "If the provincial government were committed to reducing red tape, it would leave Power Smart as-is. It is neither efficient nor cost-effective to change something that works so well and enjoys so much public support and industry support."

Added Mravinec: "Manitobans have always shown strong support for our public Hydro, and keeping Power Smart in-house simply makes sense.

Standing by Manitoba workers

The Canadian Union of Public Employees is Canada's largest public sector union, representing more than 643,000 workers across the country, including approximately 25,000 workers in Manitoba.

CUPE represents workers in health care, personal care homes, school divisions, municipal services, social services, child care centres, public utilities, libraries and family emergency services.

CUPE Manitoba is standing up for good jobs, fair wages, and against job cuts for Manitobans. We are standing up for people like you. Visit our website at cupe.mb.ca

CUPE helps workers move forward through progressive bargaining, political activism, mobilizing on important social issues and building fairness and respect for all.

We are proud to help build a more equal and inclusive Canada every day.

CUPE

'LET'S KEEP OUR PROVINCE GOING AND GROWING'

Cuts to public service projects and programs in the name of fiscal restraint do 'more harm than good'

Odds are, you know someone who works in Manitoba's public services. Maybe they assess our highways for safety issues. Or support foster parents and kids in the system. Or enforce our liquor laws at bars and socials. Or teach a course in your daughter's carpentry program.

"In any given week, public services and the people who provide them touch us in ways big and small," said Michelle Gawronsky, president of the MGEU, which represents thousands of Manitobans who work directly for the province, crowns and colleges, or agencies funded by government. "Because they're such a natural part of everyday life, it's easy to take them for granted — until they're gone."

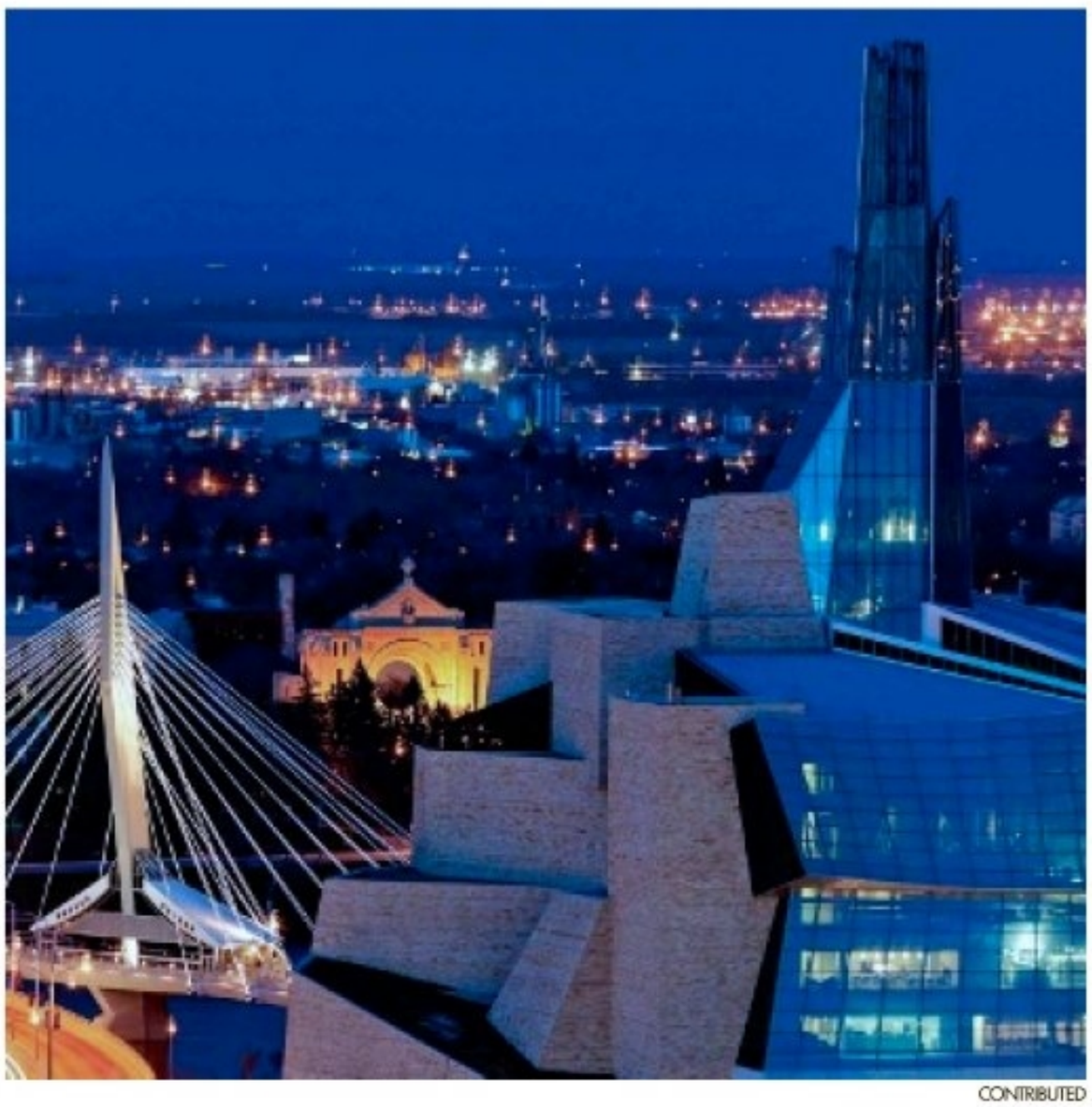
You may have already sat up and taken notice. Lately, the Pallister government has begun to cut programs and projects, all in the name of fiscal restraint.

"It all seems very much like cutting off their noses to spite their face," said Gawronsky. "They're eliminating a successful home care program aimed at keeping chronically ill clients out of expensive hospital beds. They're cancelling important infrastructure projects that will help stimulate our economy. They're cutting the parts of our water protection strategy that were specifically put in place after the Walkerton tragedy to prevent a water contamination disaster happening here. All of these short-sighted cuts will end up doing more harm than good."

Gawronsky pointed out that today, those who provide public services are already struggling to maintain the kind of quality services Manitobans expect. "Over the last decade, members have reported that their co-workers are seldom replaced after they resign or retire, leaving those who remain to do more, with less," she said. "Like everyone else, they're worried about what such cuts will mean for the services their families rely on."

Research suggests that in the long run, public investment, including infrastructure construction, creates economic multipliers — like good salaries that are spent locally, the money to buy goods and materials, and employees who pay taxes.

"At the end of the day, this is what creates a strong and sustainable economy," said Gawronsky. "Let's take a balanced approach that protects public services and our quality of life. Let's keep our province going and growing."



CONTRIBUTED

Building a health care system that's second to none

A quick and professional response in a health emergency. Effective prevention and diagnosis of disease. Caring and dignified supports as we age. Most of us would agree that these rank among our top priorities when it comes to public services. And all are dependent upon the right people at the right time doing the right thing.

Whether it's a lab technologist identifying cancer cells, a health care aide adjusting a pillow to prevent pressure sores, or a paramedic administering epinephrine to an allergic child — the care, attention and professionalism of trained individuals makes all the difference.

"Even with high technology diagnostics and breakthrough medications, I don't think it's possible to overstate the importance of the people who deliver quality patient care," said Michelle Gawronsky, president of the MGEU, a union that represents 16,000 Manitobans working in various fields of health care. "When my husband suffered a stroke, it was the people who were reliably there with us, day in and day out, from the first terrifying moments to the long days of rehab to years of homecare, who kept us going."

...I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE TO OVERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PEOPLE WHO DELIVER QUALITY PATIENT CARE.

– Michelle Gawronsky

There is no getting around the fact that with new medical advances and an aging population, health care costs are a growing challenge. But Gawronsky warns that cutting corners with frontline care providers will only take us backwards, not forwards.

"We need to be smart about how we're doing things. We need to look for efficiencies in what is undoubtedly a hugely complex system," Gawronsky said. "But like with most things, balance and careful planning is key. Right now, the government's rush to cut $125 million out of the health care system over the next year, regardless of the impact on patients, seems risky."

CONTRIBUTED

Making sure that those Manitobans providing hands-on care are fully trained and equipped and ready to give 100 per cent, remains vital to maintaining the kind of world class health system we all want and deserve.

"It's about priorities. We must seek measured and responsible solutions that, at the end of the day, don't threaten what we value most."

Wisdom in investing, not cutting

After the government was elected in spring 2016, a Viewpoints poll of Manitobans found:

- *79 per cent support increasing income taxes on large corporations to help protect public services.*
- *74 per cent support tax increases for people living in households with before-tax incomes of more than $200,000 to protect or improve public services.*
- *74 per cent oppose cutting public services to reduce the deficit.*
- *44 per cent believe protecting health care, roads, justice, and other public services is government's most important budget priority, compared to 28% per cent who identified stimulating the economy and creating jobs, and 11 per cent who identified balancing the budget even if it means cutting services and laying off people.*

Premier Pallister:

You promised to protect public services.

Keep Your Word.

Authorized by the MGEU

metro TRAVEL
Your essential daily news

Pacific Dawn passengers on "cruise to nowhere" after storm cancels all stops

The *chill* of the chase

One of the most spectacular routes in the world, Icefields Parkway winds its way through two national parks. ISTOCK

ADVENTURE

A man's race to see all 46 parks in Canada's 150th year

John Honderich
For Metro Canada

Winter, as it turns out, is a spectacular time to visit Canada's national parks.

You just have to be prepared to navigate through periodic snow blasts, gale force winds, an avalanche warning here and there, and icy roads. But the rewards are nothing short of breathtaking, particularly in the mountains.

And heck, we are the North. Winter is us, part of our soul. Which is why I decided to visit 10 parks this winter as part of my yearlong odyssey to visit (hopefully) all 46 of Canada's national parks and reserves in honour of our country's 150th birthday.

My itinerary took me to four provinces — Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario. My criteria were parks that offered either breathtaking vistas, superb cross-country skiing, intriguing animal experiments (bison breeding) or rugged new terrain.

I was never disappointed, except the one time I was not able to track down the bison herd in Elk Island National Park, just outside Edmonton. It turned out the herd had been shepherded to a remote corner of this postage stamp-sized park. So I had to make do with the stuffed baby bison in the visitors' centre.

The Rocky Mountains in winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas. There is just something about mile after mile of towering snow-clad cedar forests encircling snow-capped mountains. This explains why I decided to start my odyssey in the Alberta Rockies on New Year's.

My first national park was Waterton Lakes, nestled among majestic peaks at the U.S. border, a few hours south of Calgary.

And it was en route to Waterton that I learned my first enduring lesson. Travelling to these parks takes you to unexpected sites, hidden gems and famous place names you simply hadn't anticipated.

The trip to Waterton, for example, along Alberta's stunning Highway 22, led me to Pincher Creek, which just happens to be the birthplace of a former assistant as well as Canada's Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin.

> **The Rocky Mountains in the winter have always been an amazing lure, partly for the skiing but mostly for the dramatic kaleidoscope of vistas.**
> John Honderich

A few kilometres farther along were signs to Crowsnest Pass, a route synonymous in Canadian history with freight rates and mountain slides. I just had to drive through. Later, I would drive through Kicking Horse Pass in Yoho Park and the highest, Rogers Pass, in Glacier National Park. A trifecta of Canadian railway history.

A different surprise came en route to Bruce Peninsula Park, at the northernmost tip of the Niagara escarpment in Ontario. There, in the Georgian Bay town of Wiarton, was a huge statue in honour of Wiarton Willy, Ontario's foremost predictive groundhog.

And driving back from La Mauricie Park along the shores of the mighty Saint-Maurice River in Quebec, I happened upon a museum to native son Jean Chrétien in Shawinigan. It contained all the gifts the former prime minister received while in office. It was closed for the season.

When it comes to majesty, there is still nothing that matches the mountain splendour of the Icefields Parkway in Jasper. On a frigid, minus-30-degree, cloudless day, the mountains seemed almost to explode in full glory.

Indeed that feeling would reoccur during several drives through the four contiguous national parks — Jasper, Banff, Yoho and Kootenay — that form the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks World Heritage Site.

Throw in two nearby B.C. parks — Glacier National Park and Mount Revelstoke National Park — and you are left almost breathless by the winter splendour. So, all in all, a good start to my four-season odyssey.

And if I do manage to visit all 46 parks, Parks Canada says I might even get a lifetime pass!

This is one in a series of columns by John Honderich, chairman of the board of Torstar, as he attempts to visit all of Canada's national parks during the country's 150th birthday year.

BEST RESORTS FOR TRAVELLERS WITH DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

It can be hard to decide where to go for the best sun holiday. It's even harder if you need to take dietary restrictions into consideration. Food allergies, gluten free, vegetarian, or vegan diet, these resorts represent some of the best.

KATHY BUCKWORTH/FOR METRO

1 Sensatori Jamaica

Clients with food restrictions are issued with a card that they present at each restaurant on the resort to ensure that the food prepared for them is safe for their particular requirements. They also have a terrific gluten free section in their buffet.

2 IBEROSTAR Grand Hotel Paradiso in Riviera Maya

Guests indicate dietary restrictions during booking. They get a letter to present to chefs on property, who either prepare a special dish or highlight options. All IBEROSTAR properties have vegetarian and vegan options.

3 Paradisus Cancun

Every restaurant in the resort has vegetarian and gluten free options. For other food restrictions, guests are sent an email to confirm their dietary needs; a specific menu will be designed. The executive Chef will visit the guest upon arrival and check in during the stay to get feedback on their gastronomic experience.

Family resorts pamper parents too

VACATION

It can be easier to unwind when childrens' needs cared for

Eva Salinas
For Metro Canada

It was important for me to give my kid a taste of the country too. EVA SALINAS/FOR METRO CANADA

There's no doubt that our children change us. From the day they are born, we don't sleep, eat, or work quite the same again. Little fingers under the bathroom door mean not even a trip to the toilet will ever be like it was before.

For me, the most symbolic change was the way I would travel. Being tethered to a little one meant my days of spontaneous or extended backpacking trips were over (or at least greatly postponed). For someone who spent her entire 20s moving from city to city, continent to continent, sleeping under stars in San Sebastian or in a tent in the Atacama desert, this was big.

Thankfully, memories from the road — and new ones in the backyard — fill the void.

But when the opportunity came recently to go on a trip with my now-five-year-old son, I jumped on it. It would be equally symbolic of my new life — a few days at Club Med Ixtapa Pacific, on Mexico's West coast.

I had somehow avoided all-inclusive vacations until this trip. They were never appealing to me — the all-day drinking, the crowds of tourists, my dollars leaving the country by way of a foreign company.

But when you're a single parent in need of a break and desperate for new horizons, you take what you can get. And when what you can get turns out to be the cream of the all-inclusive crop, you feel very grateful you are able to travel at all.

Club Med's Ixtapa Pacific location was a hot, decadent dream. For better or worse, it both met my resort expectations and exceeded them — the buffets were excessive but to die for; the entertainment shows were over-the-top and cheesy but impressive (the acrobatics had me mesmerized); the long list of daily options — taking breakfast by the ocean, swimming in the pool, getting a massage, trying the trapeze, etc. — felt incredibly self indulgent.

There were no drunken spring break scenes. The beach was public, hosting tourists and Mexicans alike. The day-long kids clubs, where my son could go to swim, play, try the trampoline, take a Mexican cooking class and do tie-dying, among a million other things, were very welcome.

I quickly realized however that I didn't have to leave behind my old self completely. So we ventured outside the resort to wander in nearby Zihuatanejo, where you can eat quesadillas at a lunch counter in the market or count fallen coconuts in between the fishing boats on the beach. And we took one of the Club's excursions to Troncones, where participating in the turtle rescue operation — helping them hatch and make it safely into the water — was a trip highlight.

And while I had assumed I would use the babysitting service more often, in the end I spent much more of each day with my son than expected. That time on the beach with him — a long way from work, a messy house, our scheduled lives — was the best part of all, and what I have always loved about travelling in the first place.

FUN FOR YOU

Indulge
That. Is. The. Point. In food, the poolside, time to yourself, sunsets, all of it.

Kids' clubs
They will love it. But know your kids' limits — to prevent a grumpy morning or late-night meltdown.

Leave extra gear at home
Family-friendly resorts have everything you may need, from cribs to strollers to eager staff willing to help.

Try something new
Whether a treatment at the spa (usually an additional cost) or one of the sports on offer, such as paddle boarding or sailing (often included).

Choose wisely
A family-oriented resort will make sure kids have fun. If illness or food is a concern, spend more to ensure the club places emphasis on the quality of meals.

metro SPORTS

FIFA has proposed a six-team playoff for the final two spots in the World Cup's expanded 48-team tournament lineup, starting in 2026

NHL

Jets rally for OT victory

Winnipeg scored twice in the final 8:25 of regulation before Mark Scheifele's overtime winner lifted the Jets to a 4-3 win over the playoff-bound Anaheim Ducks on Thursday.

Following a coach's challenge by Ducks coach Randy Carlyle, it was determined Dustin Byfuglien's jam-job in the crease was indeed a good goal, tying the score with 12 seconds remaining and sending the game to overtime.

THURSDAY In Winnipeg

4	3
JETS	DUCKS

Joel Armia and captain Blake Wheeler joined Byfuglien with regulation goals for Winnipeg (36-35-7).

Corey Perry scored twice as the Pacific Division-leading Ducks lost for the first time in their last six games. Jakob Silfverberg also scored for Anaheim (42-23-12).

Michael Hutchinson made 25 saves for Winnipeg, improving to 8-12-3 in his 19th start of the season in goal.

The Jets have four games remaining in their season. They host the Ottawa Senators on Saturday night before travelling to St. Louis and Columbus next week. They play their final regular-season game on April 8 at home against the Nashville Predators. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gushue buoyed by top-tier experience

CURLING

Veteran skip set to make his worlds debut

Brad Gushue and his teammates have plenty of experience wearing the Maple Leaf even though they're set to make their first appearance at the world men's curling championship.

Gushue and third Mark Nichols won Olympic gold at the Turin Games in 2006, five years after winning a world junior title together. Second Brett Gallant skipped Canada to world junior silver in 2009 and lead Geoff Walker played third on the national team skipped by Charley Thomas that won world junior gold in 2006.

The foursome from St. John's will be podium favourites when the 2017 world men's playdowns begin Saturday at the Northlands Coliseum. The Brier champions are joined by coach Jules Owchar, team leader Rick Lang and alternate Tom Sallows.

"Lots of experience within the room," Gushue said. "I don't think there's going to be anything that's really going to surprise us."

Earlier this month, Gushue edged Kevin Koe 7-6 to win the national men's title for the first time in 14 tries. He became the first Newfoundland skip to hoist the Brier Tankard since Jack Mac-

Brad Gushue, left, Mark Nichols, Brett Gallant and Geoff Walker receive the Brier Tankard after winning the men's national championship on March 12. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Duff in 1976.

Gushue's team came through despite the pressure and distractions that came with playing in their hometown.

They also played hurt as Gushue has been dealing with a hip/groin issue and Walker's sweeping abilities were hampered by a right shoulder injury.

"To win this one, it doesn't seem to make much sense," Gushue said. "I think it really showed that our team has a lot of grit and determination."

The top-ranked team will look to build on that success in Edmonton. Sweden's Niklas Edin, Switzerland's Peter de Cruz and Scotland's David Murdoch are also expected to contend for podium spots.

Edin, who won Olympic bronze at the 2014 Sochi Games, won world titles in 2013 and 2015. De Cruz won a world junior title in 2010 while Murdoch took Olympic silver in 2014 and is a two-time world men's champion ('06, '09).

The 12-team field also includes American John Shuster, China's Rui Liu, Germany's Alexander Baumann, Italy's Joel Retornaz, Japan's Yusuke Morozumi, Jaap Van Dorp of the Netherlands, Norway's Steffan Walstad and Russia's Alexey Stukalskiy.

"I feel like our team is definitely one of the favourites going in," Gushue said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **Lots of experience in the room. I don't think there's going to be anything that's really going to surprise us.** Brad Gushue

IN BRIEF

Chan sits in third after men's short program

Canada's Patrick Chan finished third in the men's short program at the world figure skating championships.

The three-time world champion posted a score of 102.13. Defending champion Javier Fernandez of Spain scored 109.05, while Japan's Shoma Uno (104.86) was second.

In the pairs competition, Canada's Eric Radford and Meagan Duhamel — two-time world champs — held on to finish a disappointing seventh place. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poulin to captain Canada

Marie-Philip Poulin has been named Canada's captain for the 2017 women's world hockey championship.

Canada kicks off the tournament Friday against the defending champion U.S. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FINAL FOUR SCHEDULE
Saturday at Glendale, Ariz.

- Gonzaga vs. South Carolina, 6:09 p.m.
- North Carolina vs. Oregon, 8:49 p.m.

*All times Eastern

Oregon player Dillon Brooks of Mississauga, Ont.
GETTY IMAGES

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*No purchase necessary. Entry period is Monday, February 6, until Friday, March 31, 2017 at 11:59 pm. Odds of winning depend on total number of p... One entry per person ... available online at www.metronews.ca/panel

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Decadent Skillet S'mores

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Who needs a campfire when you can whip up s'mores in your kitchen? Dare we say they best their summer competition?

Ready in 15 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 bags of dark chocolate chips
- 17 marshmallows, cut in half
- 1 box of graham crackers

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350.

2. In a 9-inch, ovenproof skillet, pour the chocolate chips in an even layer across the bottom. Arrange the marshmallow halves along the top, covering all the chips.

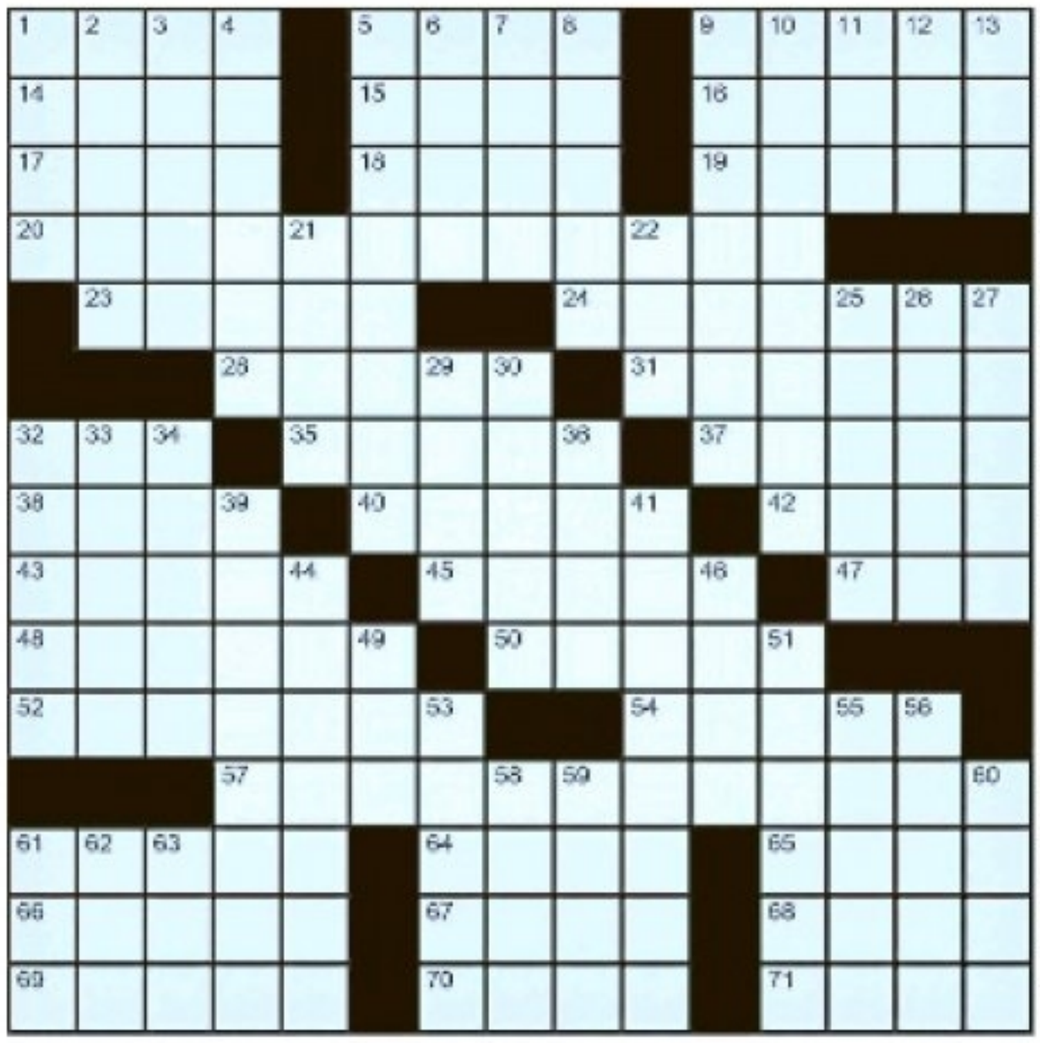
3. Bake in the oven for 10 minutes, or until marshmallows are lightly browned and chocolate is melted. Be careful not to over bake the chocolate.

4. Serve with stacks of graham crackers to dip and enjoy.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "You __ Meant for Me" by Jewel
5. British raincoats, fun-style
9. Short romance
14. Figure skating jump
15. Aid and __
16. "American Pie" embankment
17. Aggravate
18. Former musical comedy on FOX
19. Up to now: 2 wds.
20. Performance centre in Montreal: 3 mots
23. Showbiz news show hosted by Mario Lopez
24. __ Party of Canada
28. River sediments
31. Switzerland city
32. Sugar amt.
35. Roman goddess of agriculture
37. Wallet item, __ card
38. Gets by, just barely
40. One with a pad and paper
42. Food Network creation
43. Sacred temple practices
45. Ornamental edging of loops
47. Anonymous surname
48. Angel
50. Taboos
52. "Cool It Now" by New __
54. "Boo! Boo!"
57. 'B' of CBC
61. Sleeping problem
64. Jam-in together
65. "Hop __ __!" (Get moving)
66. Pop into the freezer
67. Uncommon
68. Root that's edible
69. Places at a slant
70. __ and flows
71. Robin Colcord's portrayer on "Cheers", Roger __

DOWN
1. __ speed, as on "Star Trek"
2. Banish
3. Put up your feet and stay awhile
4. Chooses a candidate
5. Gulf of St. Lawrence archipelago, __ Islands
6. 'Obtain' suffix
7. So-so grades
8. Pilfer
9. __ truck
10. Diminished
11. "Poison __" by The Coasters
12. Maiden name word preceder
13. Become
21. Mr. Stoltz of movies
22. Tractor trailer
25. Raise one's paddle at the auction another time
26. Notice/warning, in Spain
27. Workshop machine
29. French for 'too much'
30. __ __ stone (Unchangeable)
32. Succinct
33. Went to Whistler
34. Agar-holding lab dish
36. Like dry Spanish wine
39. Car safety device
41. Glace Bay, Nova Scotia born stand-up comedian: 2 wds.
44. Coils
46. Pump parts
49. Which person, wondered the owl?
51. Jet-__ (World traveller)
53. Mother-of-pearl
55. __ __ Janeiro
56. Like a nasty comment
58. Dullsville
59. Atkins = Low-__ diet
60. Ronny & The Daytonas cars
61. Take steps
62. __ Beta Kappa
63. Naught

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You're full of big ideas today because you're in such a positive frame of mind. Enjoy discussions with siblings, neighbors and relatives. (They will be impressed.)

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Business and commerce are favoured today, because you are in a moneymaking frame of mind. Furthermore, you're not afraid to entertain ambitious ideas. Good stuff!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Today the Moon is in your sign and you feel content and happy. It's a good day for business. It's also a good day to enjoy family activities at home.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today you will prefer to work behind the scenes or perhaps alone. It's also a good day to research and look for answers to old problems.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Relationships with friends and group members will be upbeat and positive today. Make an effort to be sociable and friendly, because you are the one who will get a pleasant payoff.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You make a great impression on bosses and VIPs today. In fact, work-related travel or talking to people from other cultures is likely for some of you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do something different today. Shake up your routine. You have an urge for adventure and you also want to learn something new. Go someplace you have never been before

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
This is a good day to discuss shared property and issues related to insurance, wills, inheritances and anything that you own jointly with others. Things will likely go in your favor.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign. This simply requires some tolerance, patience and co-operation.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Do something to get better organized today. Make your workstation or where you live a bit neater. Tidy things up.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
This is a playful, fun-loving day. It's also a good date day. Plan to have fun activities with children, friends and loved ones. Sporting events particularly will appeal.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You might want to cocoon at home today and just relax. Today pleasure appeals more than work — that's for sure. Take some time off just for yourself, because you deserve it.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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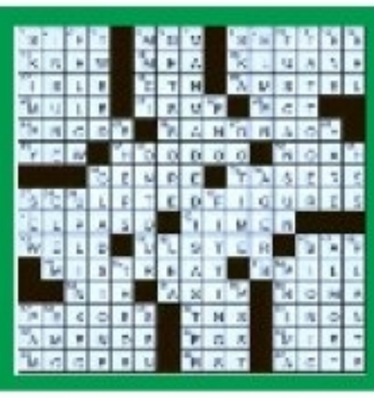

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6	8	1	7	5	2	9	4	3
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iPhone 7

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MTS
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